SUPER SECRET CRISIS WAR!
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SUPER SECRET CRISIS WAR!

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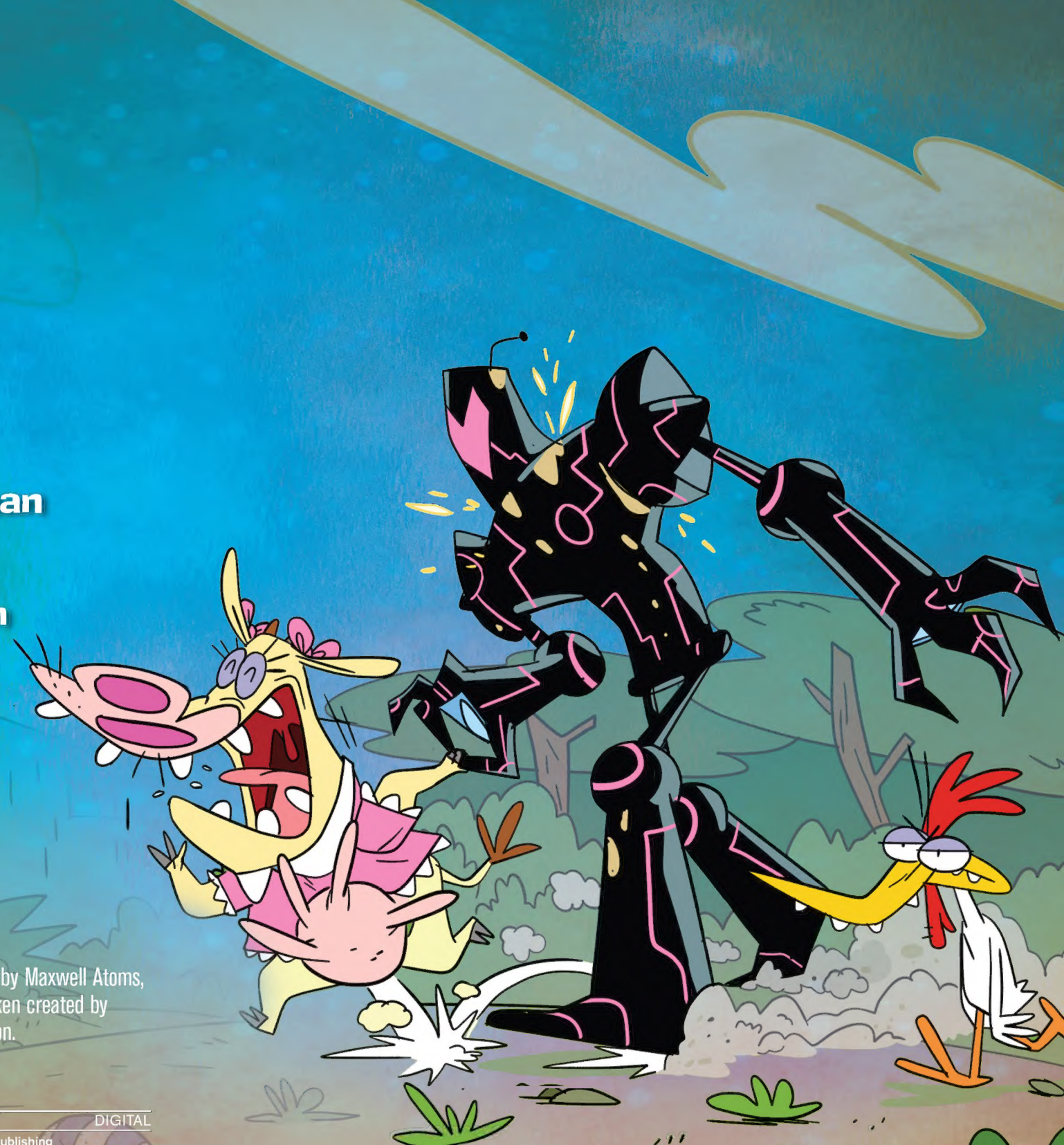

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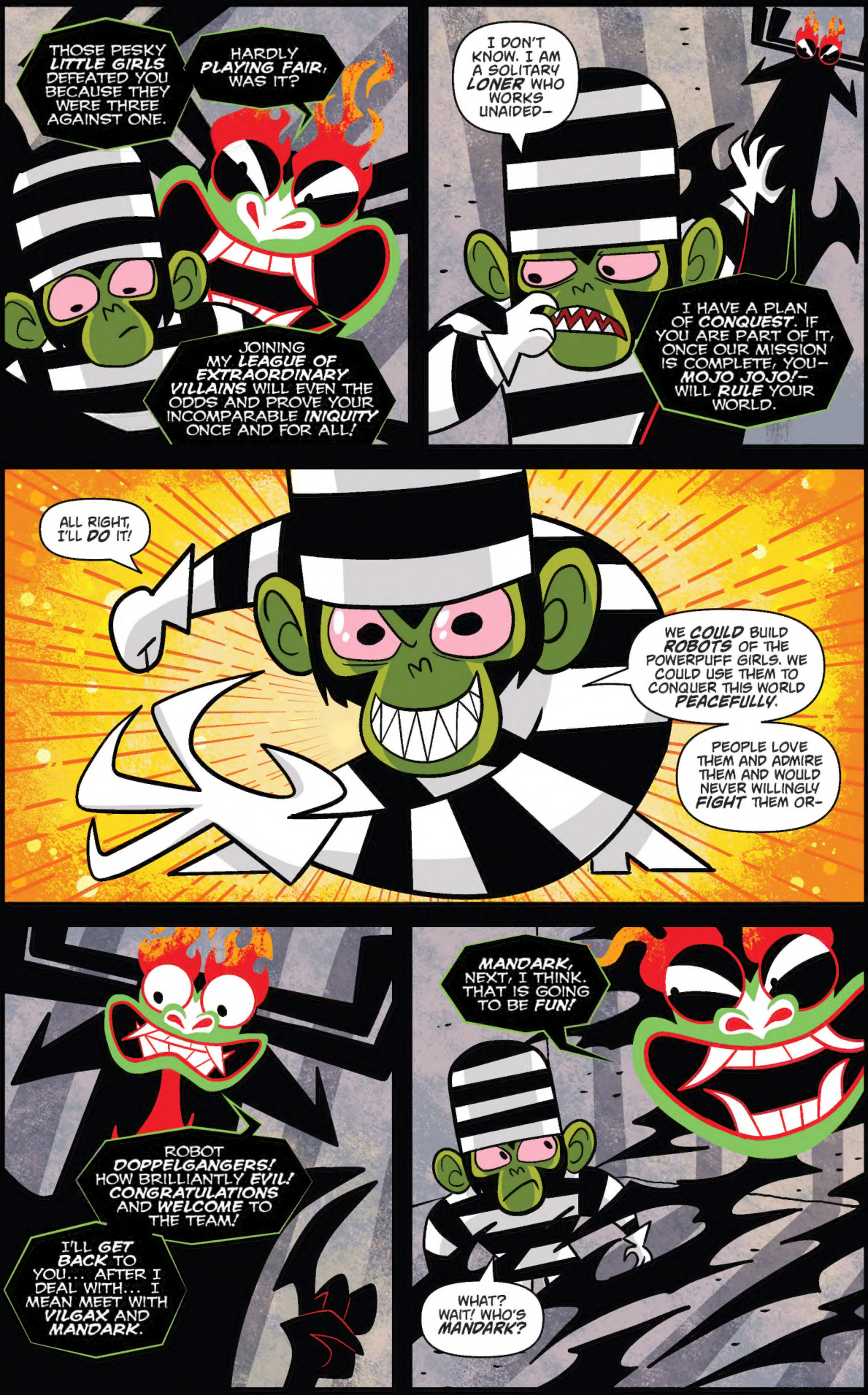
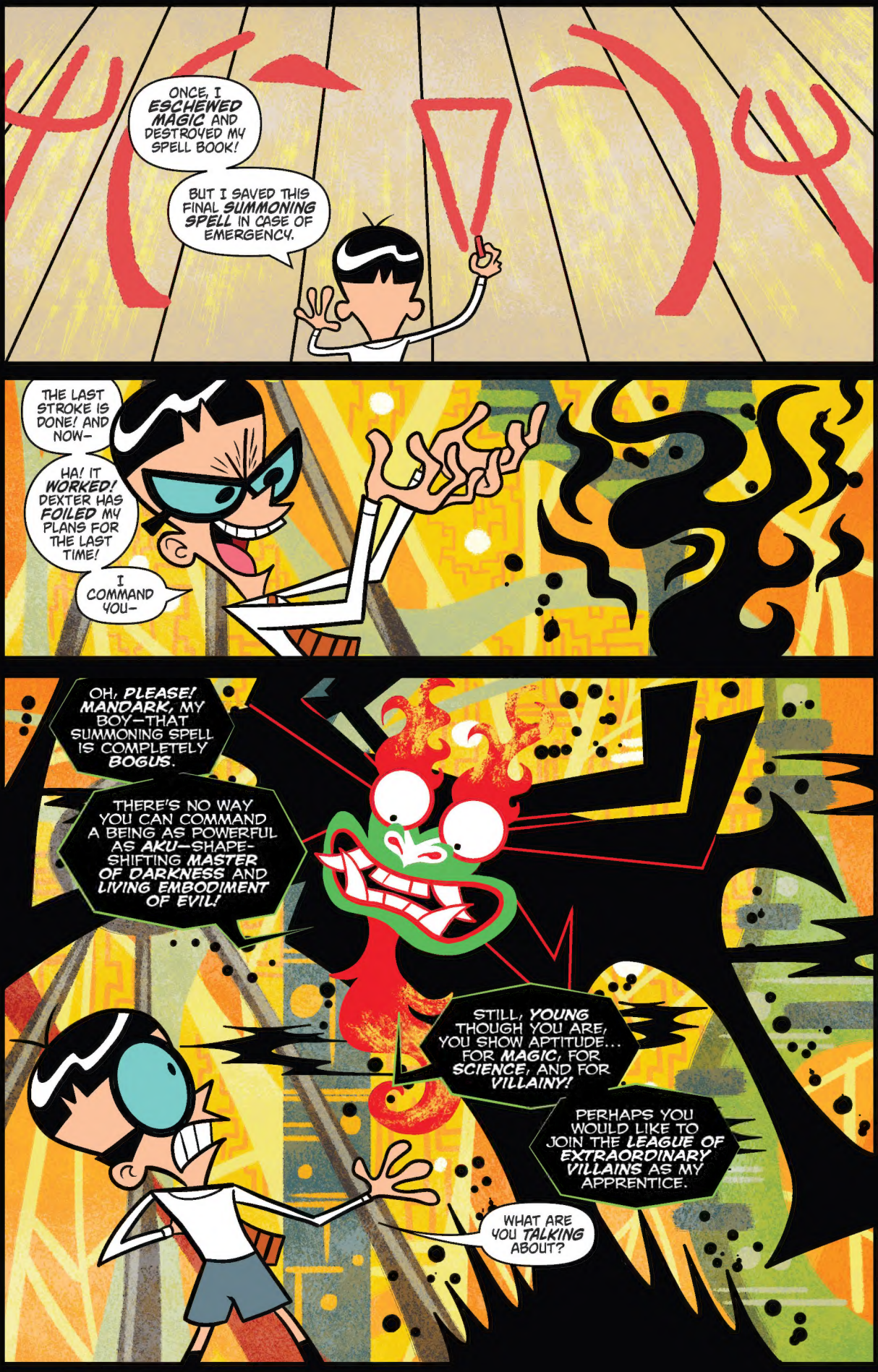
PRELUDE: UNDER CONSTRUCTION!
THE WARP CELL GOES THERE!
HANDLE IT CAREFULLY! UNTIL IT'S INSTALLED, ITS ENERGY IS UNSTABLE!
SUPER SECRET CRISIS WAR!
WRITTEN BY LOUISE SIMONSON
ART BY DEREK CHARM
MASTER AKU, IT DOESN'T FIT!
THAT IS BECAUSE YOU PLACED IT UPSIDE DOWN!
IT'S STUCK!
WAIT! DON'T JOSTLE—!
NOOOO!
RUN!
HOW CAN I EXPECT TO RULE THE UNIVERSE WHEN I'M SERVED BY IDIOTS!

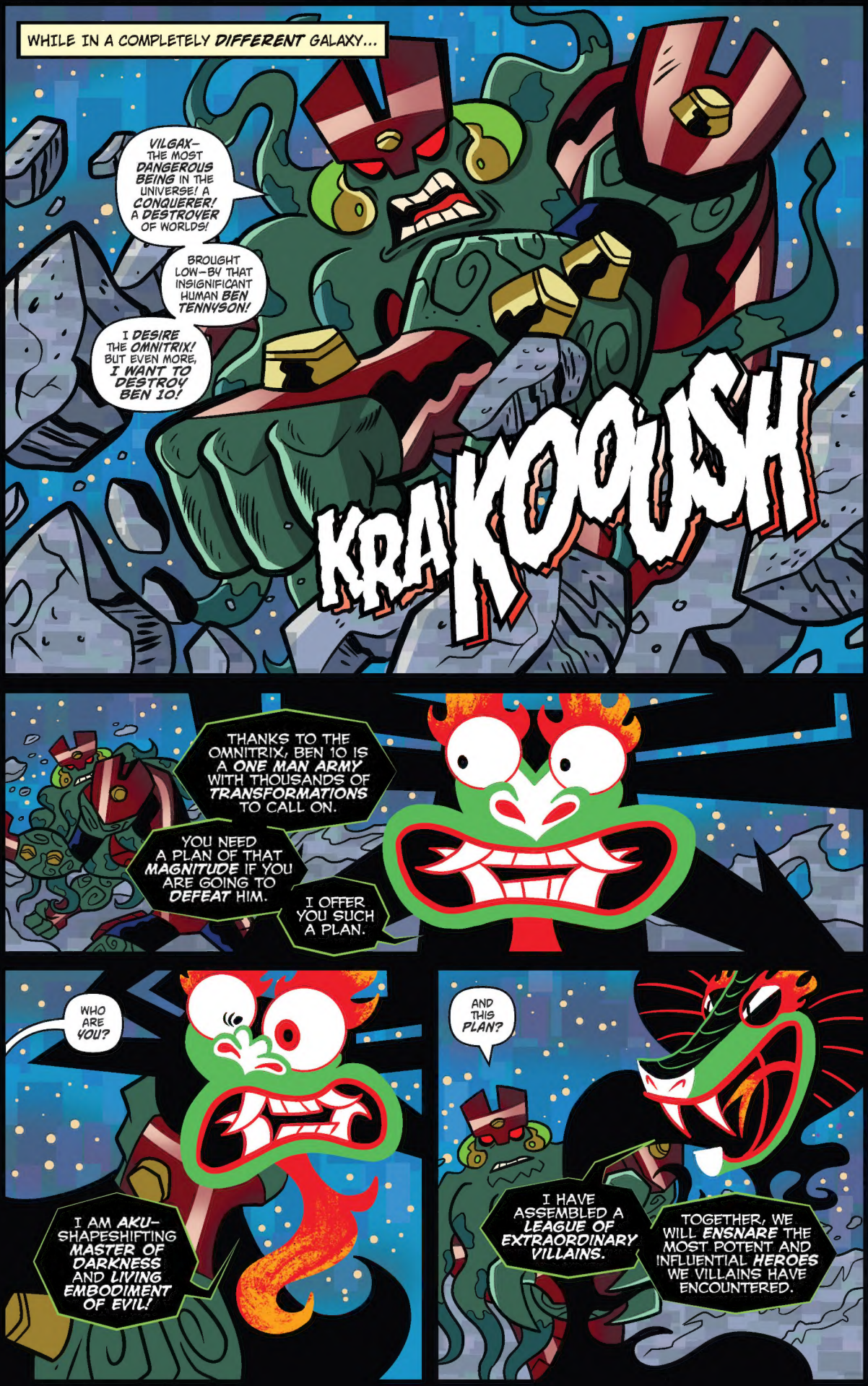
POWERING MY ROBOTS WITH ONI ALONE ISN'T WORKING! THOSE SPIRITS ARE WORTHLESS! NO WONDER SAMURAI JACK ALWAYS DEFEATS THEM!
THERE MUST BE ANOTHER WAY!
PERHAPS, OUT THERE, THERE ARE OTHERS I CAN USE...
AH! MOJO JOJO! A MECHANICAL GENIUS, WITH SIMIAN CUNNING AND LIMITED AMBITION!
CURSES! DEFEATED— BY A GAGGLE OF LITTLE GIRLS!
PERFECT! WHEN THE TIME COMES, HE CAN BE BOUGHT OFF BY DOMINATION OF HIS SINGLE, BACKWARDS WORLD.
OR KILLED. WHATEVER WORKS!
MANDARK—A BOY WHOSE GIVEN NAME IS SUSAN! WHAT WERE HIS PARENTS DOING? TRYING TO CREATE A MAD PSYCHOPATH?
SCIENTIFIC GENIUS, YOUNG, MALLEABLE, WILLING TO DELVE INTO DARK MAGIC ... AND, BEST OF ALL, EASILY DISPOSED OF WHEN THE TIME COMES.
IT WILL BE NOVEL TO HAVE A HUMAN APPRENTICE!
DEXTER, YOU WILL PAY FOR THIS IGNOMINY! MANDARK VOWS IT!
AND VILGAX— SMARTING FROM HIS LATEST DEFEAT BY THE SHAPE-SHIFTING BEN TENNYSON.
I WILL OFFER HIM A WAY TO DESTROY THE BOY, ONCE AND FOR ALL.
AND THEN, OF COURSE, I WILL DESTROY VILGAX!
WE'LL NEED A GREAT NAME...! I'VE GOT IT! THE LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY VILLAINS!
TOGETHER, WE WILL CONQUER... AND IN THE END I ALONE WILL RULE!
IS THIS A GREAT PLAN, OR WHAT?

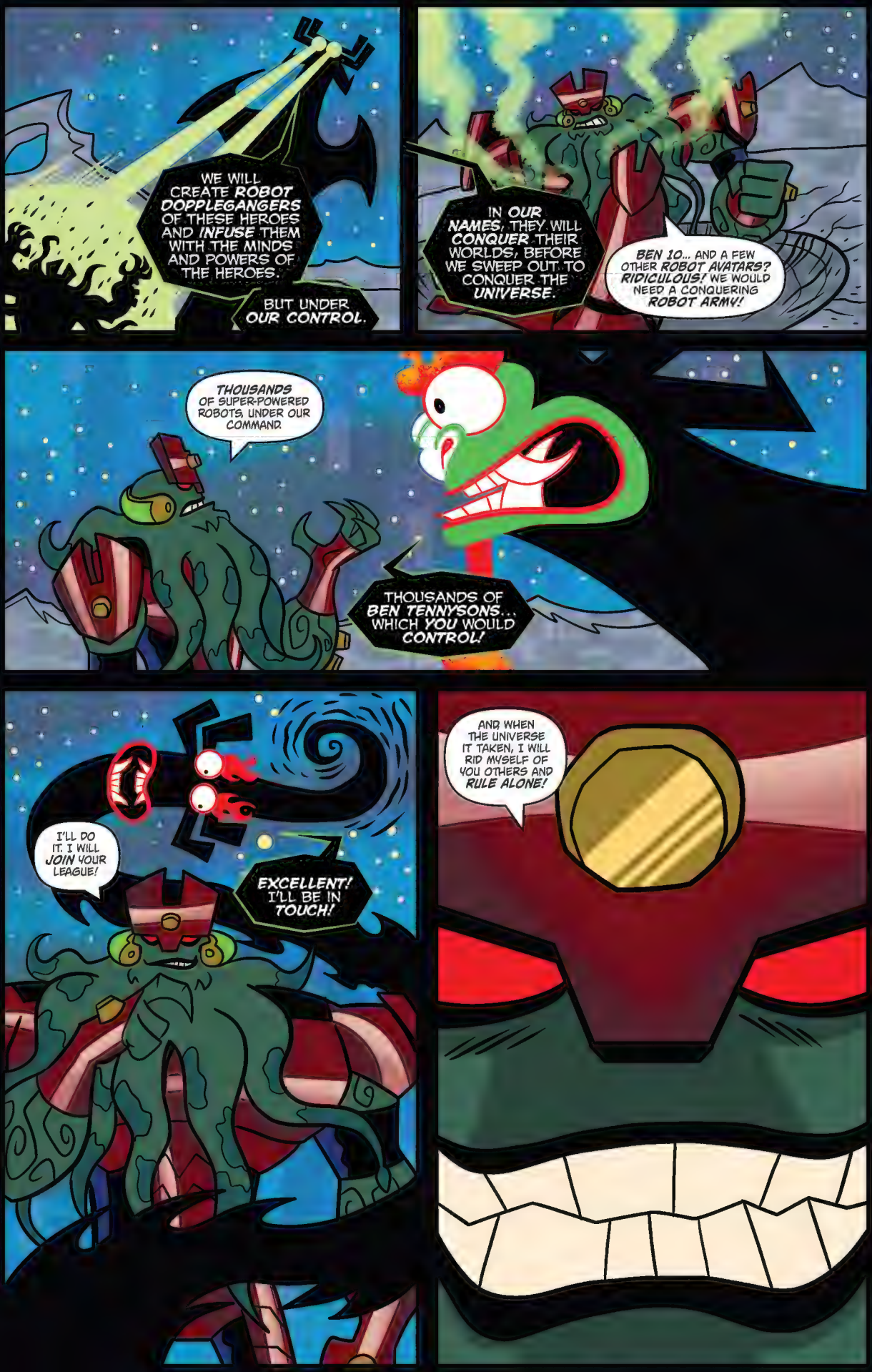
MEANWHILE...
FACE IT, MOJO JOJO!
YOU ARE NEVER, EVER GOING TO RULE THE WORLD!
YOU'RE JUST GOING TO GO...
"...TO JAIL!"
THIS IS AN UNFORTUNATE DEVELOPMENT FOR A SIMIAN GENIUS.
TOWNSVILLE— THE ENTIRE WORLD— WOULD BE MINE, BUT FOR THE MACHINATIONS OF THOSE INVIDIOUS LITTLE POWERPUFF GIRLS!
IF ONLY THERE WERE A WAY TO REVEAL TO THE WORLD MY TRUE BRILLIANCE! TO SHOWCASE MY EXCEPTIONAL VILLAINY! TO—
AMOEBA BOYS WUZ HERE
I AM AKU— SHAPESHIFTING MASTER OF DARKNESS AND LIVING EMBODIMENT OF EVIL!
PERHAPS I MIGHT BE OF ASSISTANCE?


THOSE PESKY LITTLE GIRLS DEFEATED YOU BECAUSE THEY WERE THREE AGAINST ONE.
HARDLY PLAYING FAIR, WAS IT?
JOINING MY LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY VILLAINS WILL EVEN THE ODDS AND PROVE YOUR INCOMPARABLE INIQUITY ONCE AND FOR ALL!
I DON'T KNOW. I AM A SOLITARY LONER WHO WORKS UNAIDED–
I HAVE A PLAN OF CONQUEST. IF YOU ARE PART OF IT, ONCE OUR MISSION IS COMPLETE, YOU– MOJO JOJO!– WILL RULE YOUR WORLD.
ALL RIGHT, I'LL DO IT!
WE COULD BUILD ROBOTS OF THE POWERPUFF GIRLS. WE COULD USE THEM TO CONQUER THIS WORLD PEACEFULLY.
PEOPLE LOVE THEM AND ADMIRE THEM AND WOULD NEVER WILLINGLY FIGHT THEM OR–
ROBOT DOPPELGANGERS! HOW BRILLIANTLY EVIL! CONGRATULATIONS AND WELCOME TO THE TEAM!
I'LL GET BACK TO YOU... AFTER I DEAL WITH... I MEAN MEET WITH VILGAX AND MANDARK.
MANDARK, NEXT, I THINK. THAT IS GOING TO BE FUN!
WHAT? WAIT! WHO'S MANDARK?


ONCE, I ESCHEWED MAGIC AND DESTROYED MY SPELL BOOK!
BUT I SAVED THIS FINAL SUMMONING SPELL IN CASE OF EMERGENCY.
THE LAST STROKE IS DONE! AND NOW–
HA! IT WORKED! DEXTER HAS FOILED MY PLANS FOR THE LAST TIME!
I COMMAND YOU–
OH, PLEASE! MANDARK, MY BOY–THAT SUMMONING SPELL IS COMPLETELY BOGUS.
THERE'S NO WAY YOU CAN COMMAND A BEING AS POWERFUL AS AKU–SHAPE-SHIFTING MASTER OF DARKNESS AND LIVING EMBODIMENT OF EVIL!
STILL, YOUNG THOUGH YOU ARE, YOU SHOW APTITUDE... FOR MAGIC, FOR SCIENCE, AND FOR VILLAINY!
PERHAPS YOU WOULD LIKE TO JOIN THE LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY VILLAINS AS MY APPRENTICE.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

THE LEAGUE WILL INITIALLY FOCUS ON THE WORLDS OF LEAGUE MEMBERS.
FROM THESE WORLDS, WE WILL SELECT THE MOST BELOVED AND POTENTIALLY POWERFUL INDIVIDUALS, CREATE AVATAR-ROBOTS IN THEIR LIKENESS, AND USE THESE ROBOTS TO TAKE CONTROL.
OF COURSE, WE WILL RULE THROUGH THESE AVATARS. FIRST, THEIR WORLDS... THEN THE UNIVERSE!
DEXTER, THE BOY GENIUS, SHOWS SUCH POTENTIAL FOR GREATNESS.
I HAVE MUCH MORE GENIUS THAN DEXTER! WHY DIDN'T YOU WANT TO MAKE A ROBOT OF ME?
AH! THERE'S GENIUS, MANDARK.
AND THERE'S THE GREATER GENIUS WHO CONTROLS HIM. THAT COULD BE YOU!
IT WOULD BE MORE FUN TO TRANSFER DEXTER'S CONSCIOUSNESS INTO THE ROBOT.
DEXTER WOULD KNOW HE MUST OBEY ME AND COULDN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT.
THE HEROES' KNOWLEDGE AND PERSONALITIES-TRAPPED IN ROBOT BODIES, SO THEY THINK AND ACT LIKE OUR HEROES... BUT MUST USE THEIR ABILITIES IN OUR SERVICE!
EXCELLENT! EXACTLY WHAT I HAD IN MIND!
YOU THINK YOU AREN'T HERE TO SERVE ME, AKU, BUT YOU ALREADY ARE DOING IT.
I'LL JOIN YOU AND BE YOUR ASSISTANT.
UNTIL I'M READY TO TAKE OVER AND RULE THE UNIVERSE ALONE.


WHILE IN A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT GALAXY...
VILGAX— THE MOST DANGEROUS BEING IN THE UNIVERSE! A CONQUERER! A DESTROYER OF WORLDS!
BROUGHT LOW—BY THAT INSIGNIFICANT HUMAN BEN TENNYSON!
I DESIRE THE OMNITRIX! BUT EVEN MORE, I WANT TO DESTROY BEN 10!
KRAKOOOSH
THANKS TO THE OMNITRIX, BEN 10 IS A ONE MAN ARMY WITH THOUSANDS OF TRANSFORMATIONS TO CALL ON.
YOU NEED A PLAN OF THAT MAGNITUDE IF YOU ARE GOING TO DEFEAT HIM.
I OFFER YOU SUCH A PLAN.
WHO ARE YOU?
I AM AKU— SHAPESHIFTING MASTER OF DARKNESS AND LIVING EMBODIMENT OF EVIL!
AND THIS PLAN?
I HAVE ASSEMBLED A LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY VILLAINS.
TOGETHER, WE WILL ENSNARE THE MOST POTENT AND INFLUENTIAL HEROES WE VILLAINS HAVE ENCOUNTERED.


WE WILL CREATE ROBOT DOPPLEGANGERS OF THESE HEROES AND INFUSE THEM WITH THE MINDS AND POWERS OF THE HEROES.
BUT UNDER OUR CONTROL.
IN OUR NAMES, THEY WILL CONQUER THEIR WORLDS, BEFORE WE SWEEP OUT TO CONQUER THE UNIVERSE.
BEN 10... AND A FEW OTHER ROBOT AVATARS? RIDICULOUS! WE WOULD NEED A CONQUERING ROBOT ARMY!
THOUSANDS OF SUPER-POWERED ROBOTS, UNDER OUR COMMAND.
THOUSANDS OF BEN TENNYSONS... WHICH YOU WOULD CONTROL!
I'LL DO IT. I WILL JOIN YOUR LEAGUE!
EXCELLENT! I'LL BE IN TOUCH!
AND WHEN THE UNIVERSE IT TAKEN, I WILL RID MYSELF OF YOU OTHERS AND RULE ALONE!

AND SO...
MY ROBO-WORLD IS READY! NOW, TO ASSEMBLE THE LEAGUE MEMBERS!
AS YOU KNOW, I AM AKU-SHAPESHIFTING MASTER OF DARKNESS AND LIVING EMBODIMENT OF EVIL!
WELCOME, GENTLEMEN, TO MY ROBO-WORLD AND TO THE LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY VILLAINS!
MAY I INTRODUCE VILGAX-CONQUERER OF PLANETS AND DESTROYER OF WORLDS; MOJO JOJO-SIMIAN MASTERMIND; AND MANDARK, BOY GENIUS AND APPRENTICE IN VILLAINY!
EACH OF US HAS CHOSEN A CANDIDATE OR CANDIDATES FOR INCLUSION IN OUR PLAN!
SAMURAI JACK!
BEN 10!
THE POWERPUFF GIRLS!
DEXTER!
WE WILL BUILD AND CONTROL AN ARMY OF ROBOT AVATARS OF THESE HEROES, THEN CAPTURE THE HEROES, AND INFUSE THESE ROBOTS WITH THE HEROES' MINDS AND POWERS.
UNDER OUR CONTROL, EACH ARMY WILL CONQUER EACH HERO'S WORLD, BEFORE JOINING FORCES TO SWEEP OUT TO CONQUER THE UNIVERSE.

OUR CANDIDATES AREN'T STUPID, AKU. THEY WON'T FALL INTO JUST ANY TRAP.
WE NEED SOME CLEVER UNEXPECTED WAY TO GET THEM IN OUR POWER. A SIMPLE MATTER FOR ONE OF MY VAST INTELLECT.
HEROES WANT TO DEFEAT ENEMIES. BUT THEY GET BORED. WE COULD GIVE THEM NEW VILLAINS THEY HAVEN'T SEEN. WHICH THEY'LL PROBABLY DEFEAT...
WHICH IS GOOD—BECAUSE THAT WILL SET OFF A BOOBY-TRAP. WHEN THE HEROES WIN, IT WILL SET OFF A WARP THAT WILL SEND THE HEROES HERE, INTO OUR POWER!
WE'LL NEED PRISONS TO HOLD THEM!
AN ARMY IS A LARGE GROUP! WE NEED TO BUILD MANY ROBOTS, A LARGE NUMBER WHO—!
AND DESIGN MACHINERY FOR THE CONSCIOUSNESS TRANSFER.
AND AS INSURANCE, CREATE A THREAT THAT WILL FORCE THE HEROES TO OUR WILL.
THIS PLAN HAS EVERYTHING! TEAMWORK! VENGEANCE! COERCION! CONQUEST!
TRULY, IT IS WORTHY OF OUR COMBINED VILLAINY!
THE END

Chapter 1

Written by Erik Burnham Art by Erica Henderson

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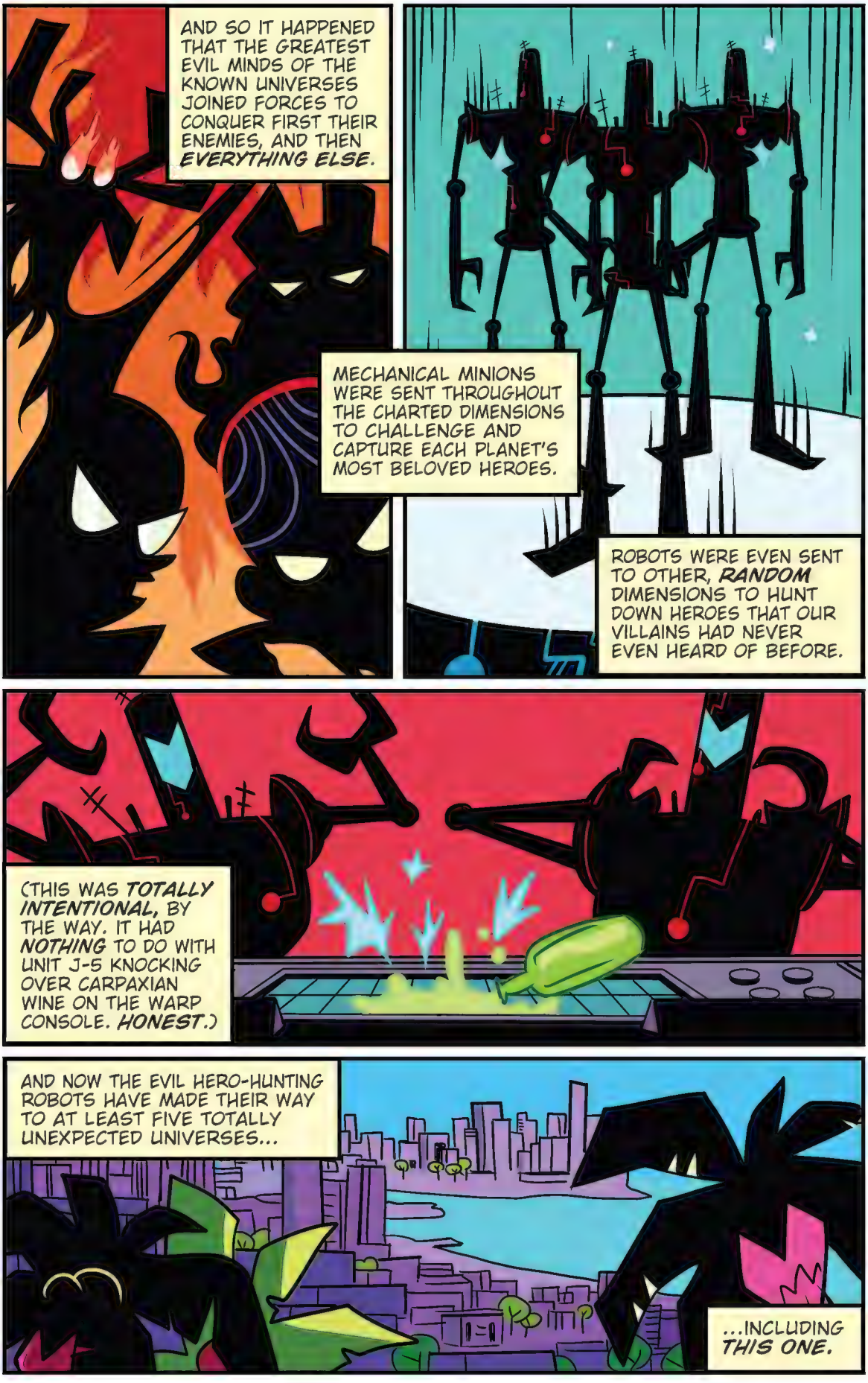
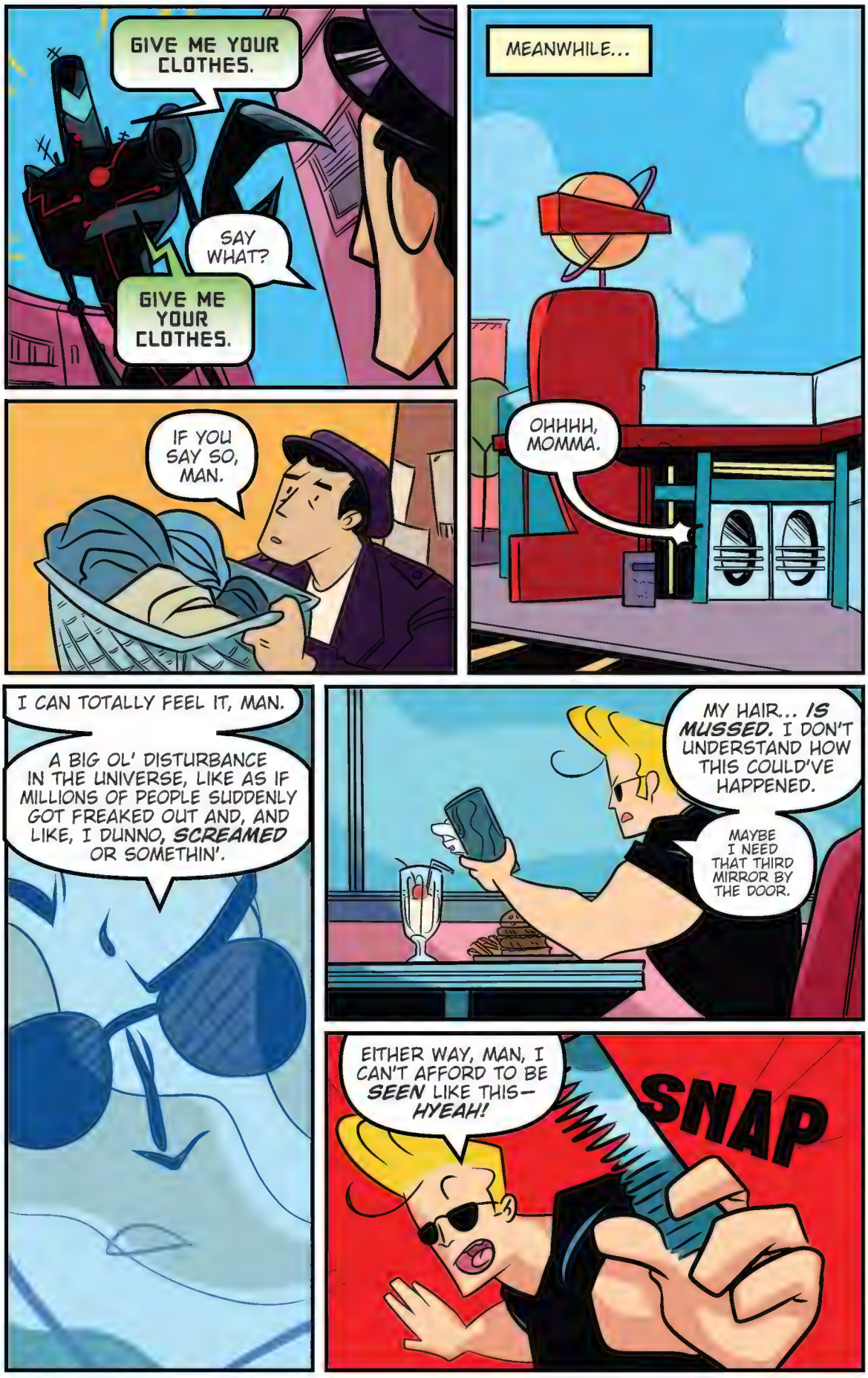
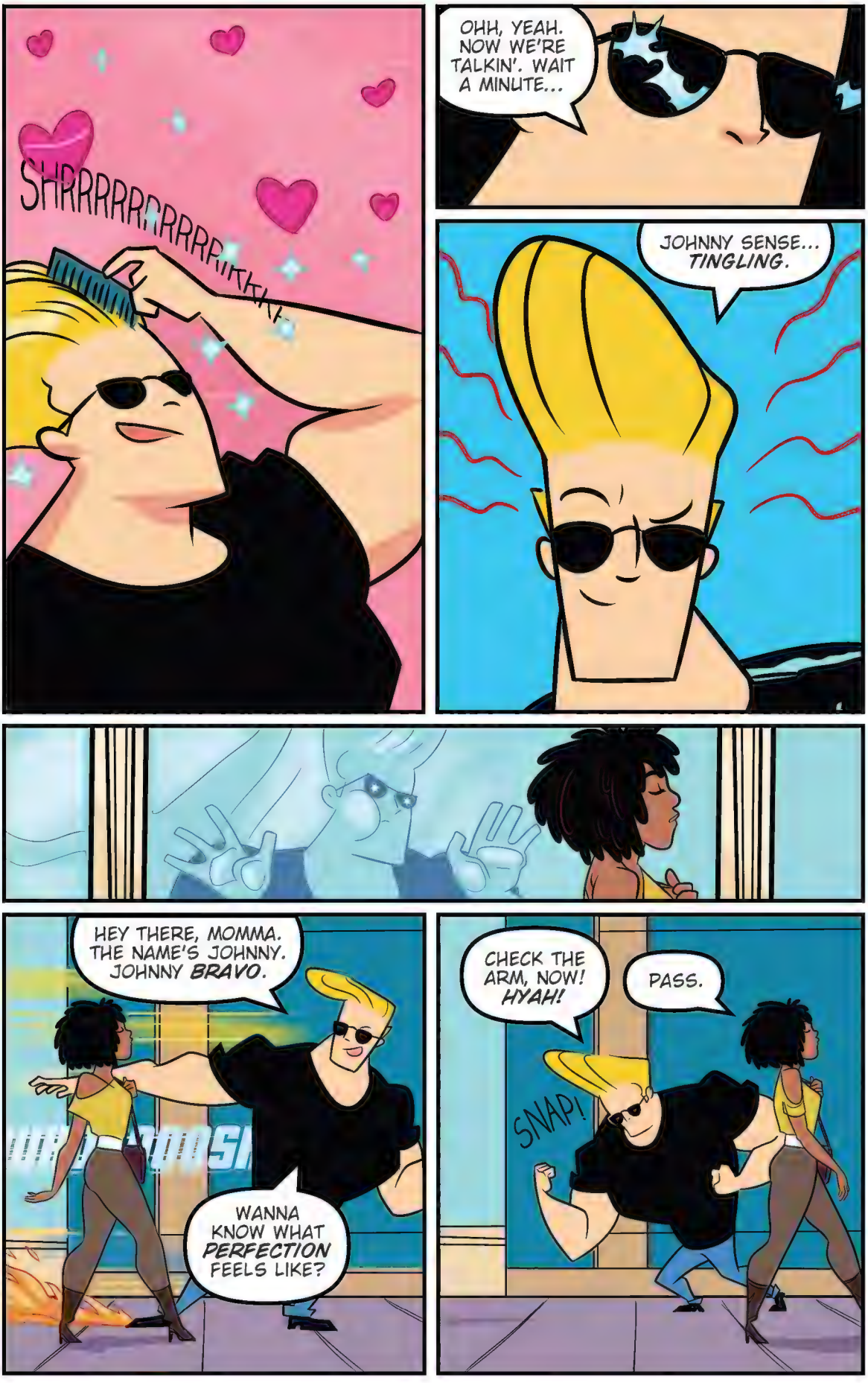

AND SO IT HAPPENED THAT THE GREATEST EVIL MINDS OF THE KNOWN UNIVERSES JOINED FORCES TO CONQUER FIRST THEIR ENEMIES, AND THEN EVERYTHING ELSE.
MECHANICAL MINIONS WERE SENT THROUGHOUT THE CHARTED DIMENSIONS TO CHALLENGE AND CAPTURE EACH PLANET'S MOST BELOVED HEROES.
ROBOTS WERE EVEN SENT TO OTHER, RANDOM DIMENSIONS TO HUNT DOWN HEROES THAT OUR VILLAINS HAD NEVER EVEN HEARD OF BEFORE.
(THIS WAS TOTALLY INTENTIONAL, BY THE WAY. IT HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH UNIT J-5 KNOCKING OVER CARPAXIAN WINE ON THE WARP CONSOLE. HONEST.)
AND NOW THE EVIL HERO-HUNTING ROBOTS HAVE MADE THEIR WAY TO AT LEAST FIVE TOTALLY UNEXPECTED UNIVERSES...
...INCLUDING THIS ONE.

FWIZZASH
LOCATION: ARON CITY. PROTOCOLS: ONLINE.
SCANNING.
SEARCH MODE...
1. FIND DISGUISE
2. LOOK FOR CHAMPION
3. TEST CHAMPION
FIND DISGUISE...
PERFECT MATCH.
LOST


GIVE ME YOUR CLOTHES.
SAY WHAT?
GIVE ME YOUR CLOTHES.
MEANWHILE...
OHHHH, MOMMA.
IF YOU SAY SO, MAN.
I CAN TOTALLY FEEL IT, MAN.
A BIG OL' DISTURBANCE IN THE UNIVERSE, LIKE AS IF MILLIONS OF PEOPLE SUDDENLY GOT FREAKED OUT AND, AND LIKE, I DUNNO, SCREAMED OR SOMETHIN'.
MY HAIR... IS MUSSED. I DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW THIS COULD'VE HAPPENED.
MAYBE I NEED THAT THIRD MIRROR BY THE DOOR.
EITHER WAY, MAN, I CAN'T AFFORD TO BE SEEN LIKE THIS— HYEAH!
SNAP


SHRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRR
OHH, YEAH. NOW WE'RE TALKIN'. WAIT A MINUTE...
JOHNNY SENSE... TINGLING.
HEY THERE, MOMMA. THE NAME'S JOHNNY. JOHNNY BRAVO.
WANNA KNOW WHAT PERFECTION FEELS LIKE?
CHECK THE ARM, NOW! HYAH!
PASS.
SNAP!

WAIT, HUH?
DIDN'T YOU HEAR THE PART ABOUT *PERFECTION?*
WELL, I NEVER MET A DEAF LADY BEFORE. BUT I CAN ADAPT.
READ MY PECS. *HYAH!*
POP!
GO AWAY.
FOUND CAT
AW, WHAT'S YOUR HURRY, SWEET THING?
THEY GOT *HALF-PRICE FLUFFERNUTTER SMOOTHIES* BACK AT THE DINER, WHAT SAY WE—
NOT INTERESTED.
SPEAK *ENGLISH*, MOMMA.
I *DON'T UNDERSTAND* THOSE WORDS YOU JUST SAID.

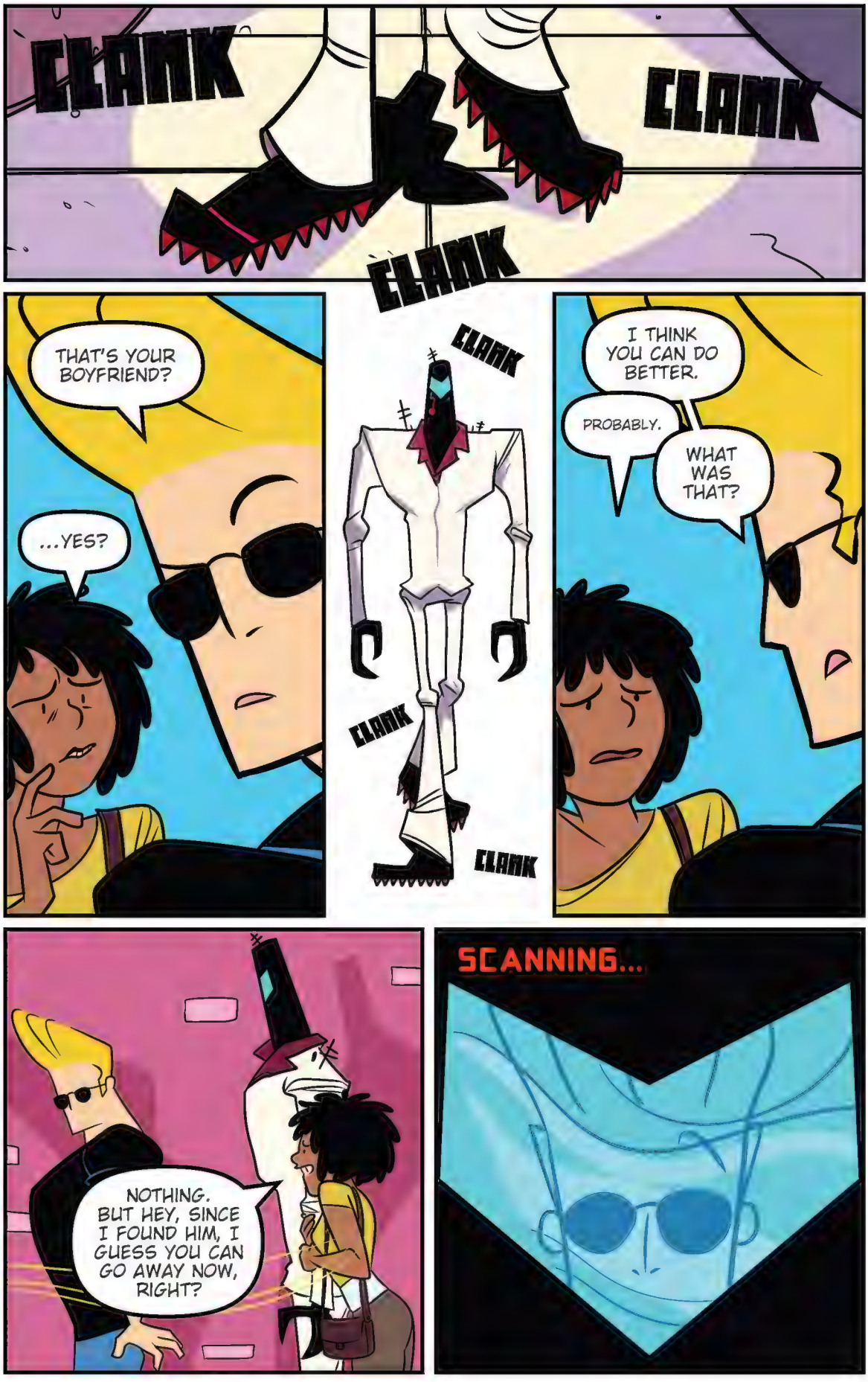
STOMP

HEY—
OW!
OWOWOW.
OKAY!
OW.
IT MAYBE DOESN'T *HAVE* TO BE THE FLUFFER-NUTTER.
I CAN LET YOU PICK THE FLAVOR, 'CAUSE I'M A REAL GEN'L'MAN.

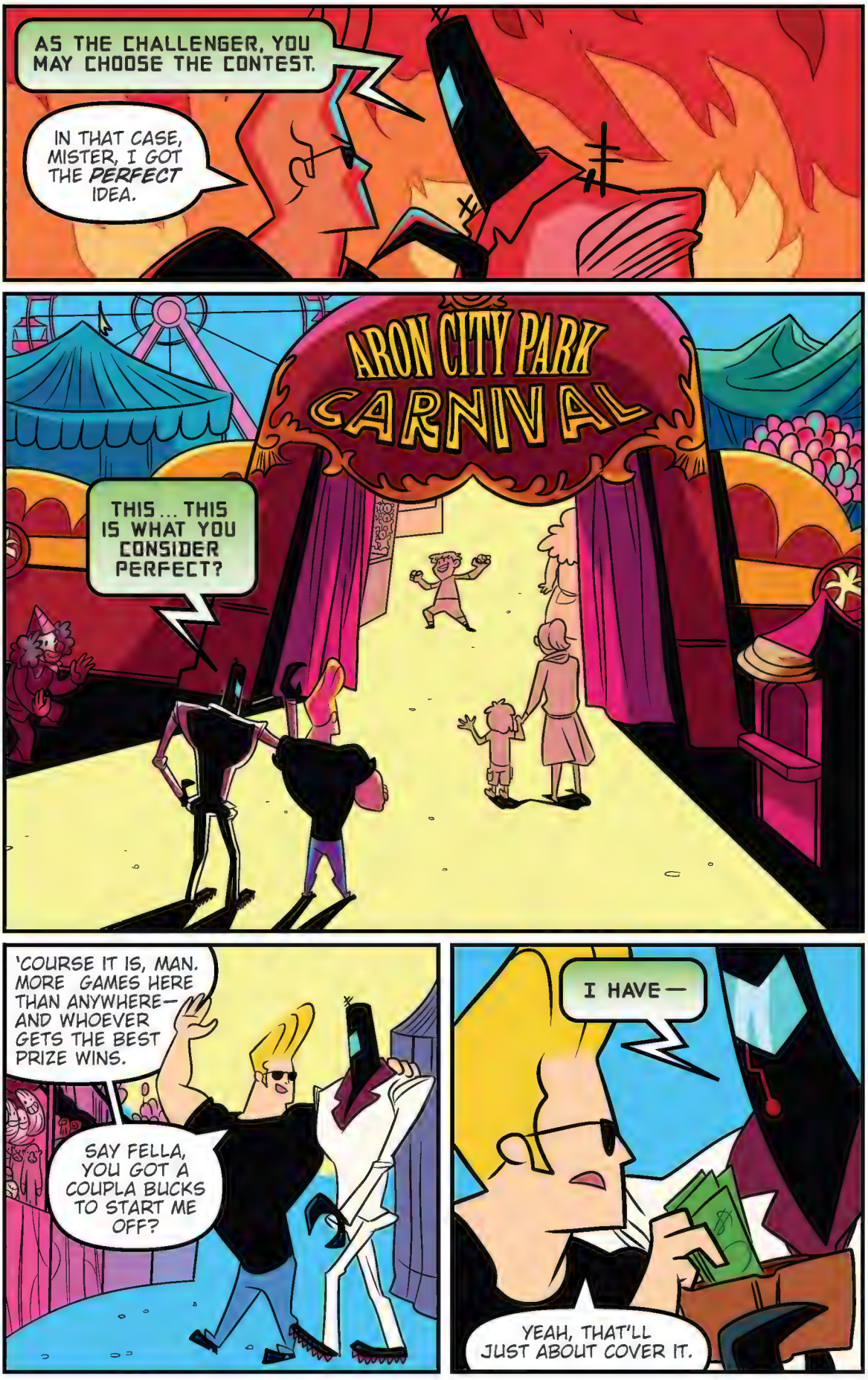
LOOK, HIMBO, IS YOUR BRAIN BROKEN?
I DON'T THINK SO. WANNA CHECK?
NO, I DON'T WANT TO CHECK! LOOK, I'M MEETING MY... UH... MY ***BOYFRIEND*** FOR LUNCH, AND I'M ALREADY RUNNING LATE!

SO WHY DON'T YOU JUST LEAVE ME ALONE?!
CLANK CLANK CLANK
YOUR BOYFRIEND?
WANT SOME COMPANY 'TIL YOU FIND HIM?

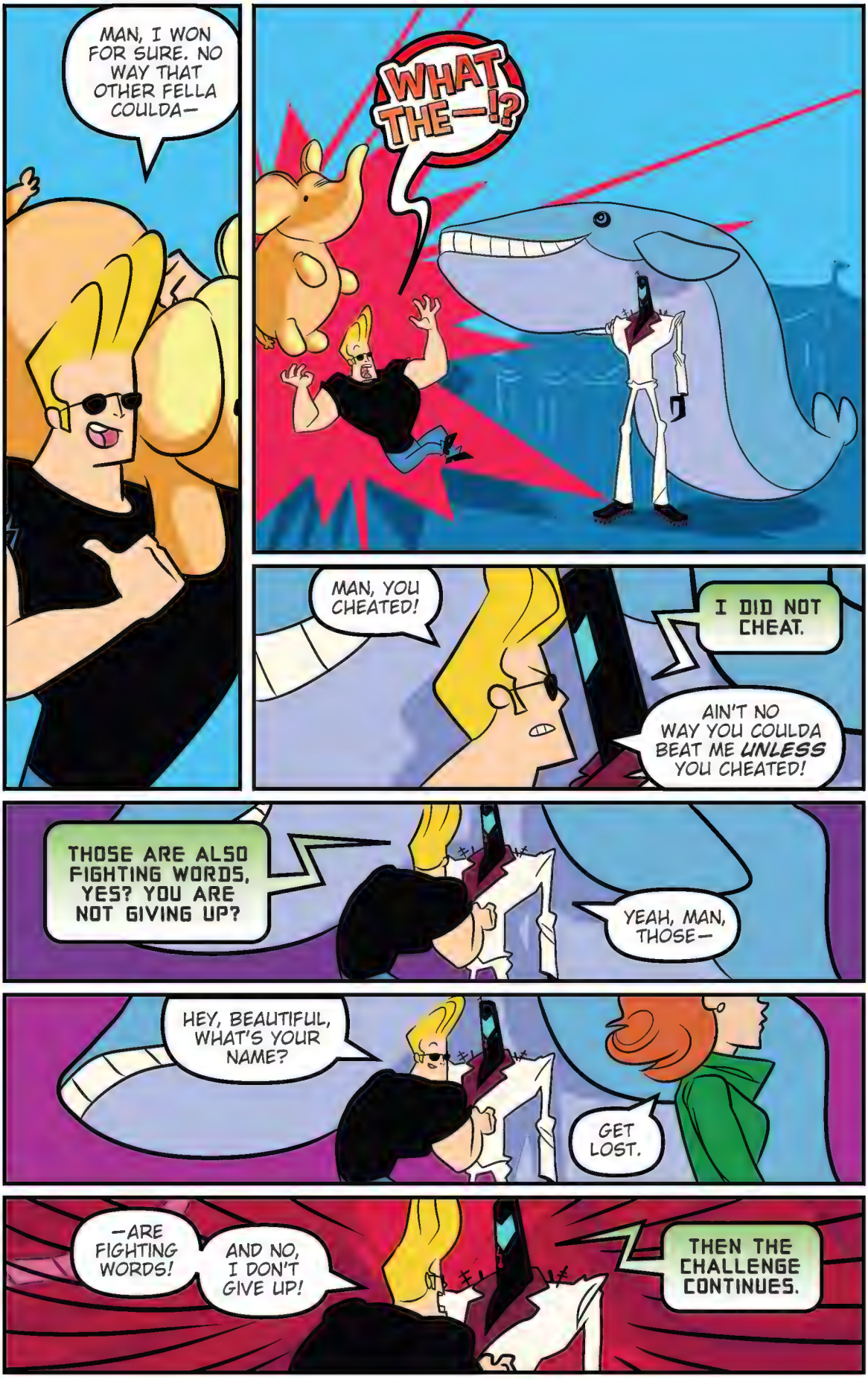
OH, LOOK. HERE HE COMES?
CLANK CLANK CLANK

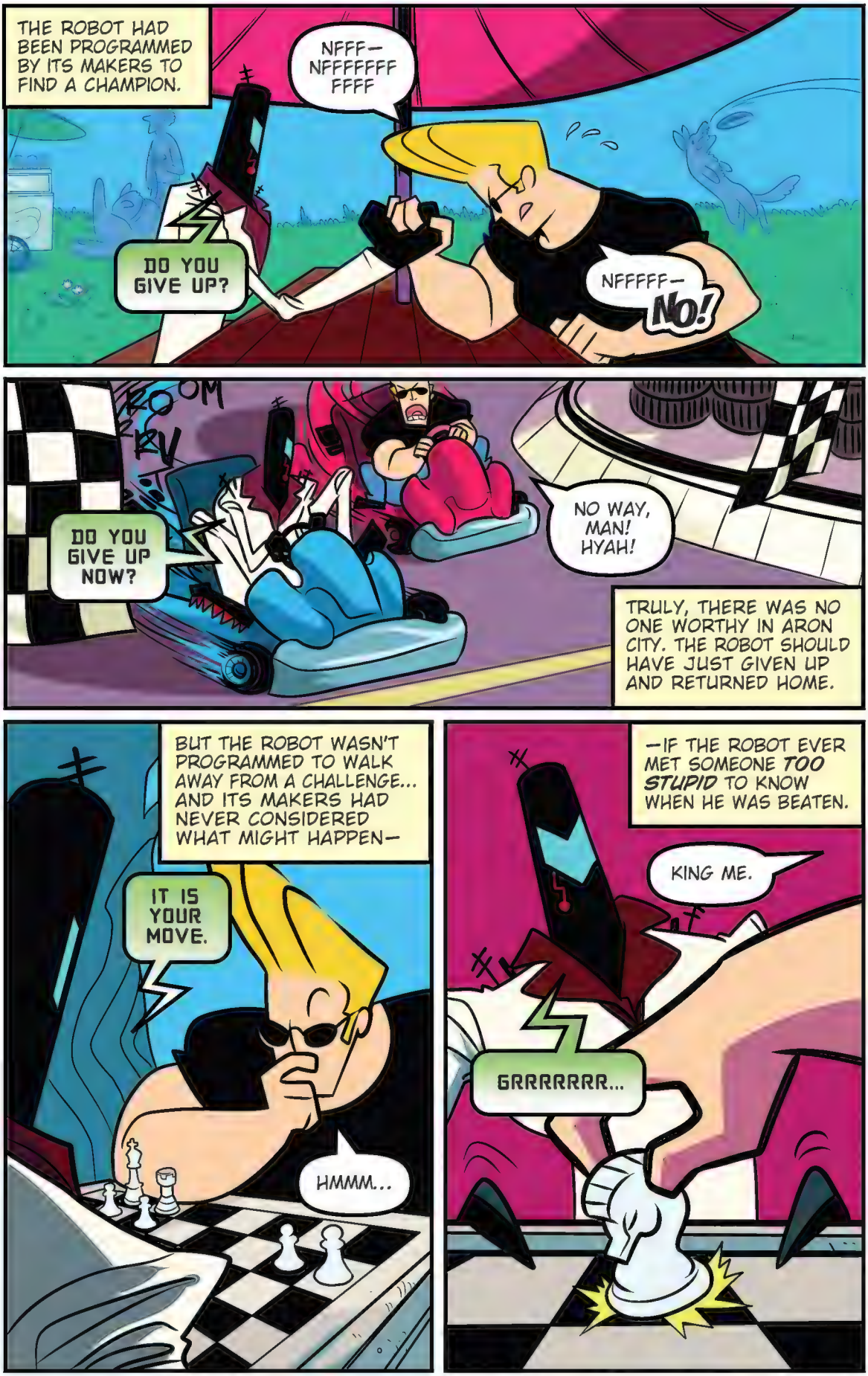

CLANK
CLANK
CLANK
THAT'S YOUR BOYFRIEND?
...YES?
CLANK
CLANK
CLANK
I THINK YOU CAN DO BETTER.
PROBABLY.
WHAT WAS THAT?
NOTHING. BUT HEY, SINCE I FOUND HIM, I GUESS YOU CAN GO AWAY NOW, RIGHT?
SCANNING...

SUBJECT POSSESSES TOO SMALL OF A BRAIN TO BE A WORTHY CHALLENGE.
SNORT
WHA—YOU CALLING ME STUPID, MISTER?
OF COURSE.
WELL THEM'S FIGHTIN' WORDS, MAN!
FIGHTING WORDS?
PROTOCOLS ACCESSED. PROCESSING.
CLARIFICATION REQUESTED: ARE YOU INITIATING A CHALLENGE?
CHALLENGE OFFERED.
A CHALLENGE? MAN, I CAN LICK YOU AT ANYTHING YOU WANNA NAME.
CHALLENGE... ACCEPTED.


AS THE CHALLENGER, YOU MAY CHOOSE THE CONTEST.
IN THAT CASE, MISTER, I GOT THE *PERFECT* IDEA.
ARON CITY PARK CARNIVAL
THIS... THIS IS WHAT YOU CONSIDER PERFECT?
'COURSE IT IS, MAN. MORE GAMES HERE THAN ANYWHERE— AND WHOEVER GETS THE BEST PRIZE WINS.
SAY FELLA, YOU GOT A COUPLA BUCKS TO START ME OFF?
I HAVE—
YEAH, THAT'LL JUST ABOUT COVER IT.

AND SO THE BATTLE WAS JOINED.
HYAH!
HOH!
25
25
100
10
10
HERE YA GO, BUB.
WHOA, MAMA!

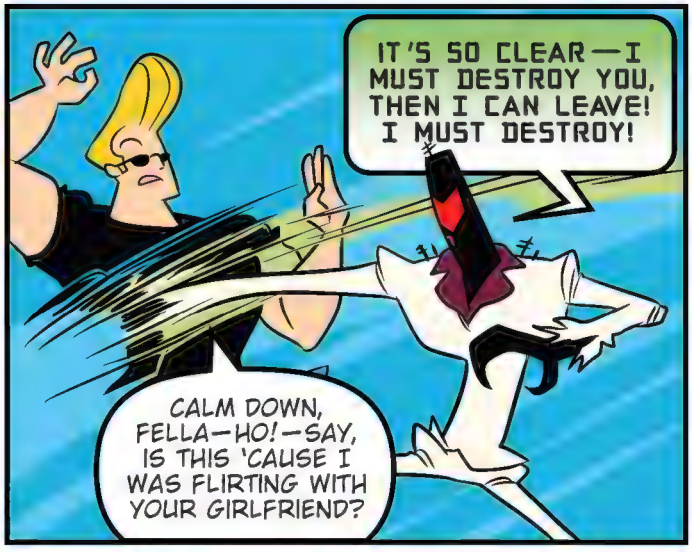

MAN, I WON FOR SURE. NO WAY THAT OTHER FELLA COULDA—
WHAT THE—!?
MAN, YOU CHEATED!
I DID NOT CHEAT.
AIN'T NO WAY YOU COULDA BEAT ME UNLESS YOU CHEATED!
THOSE ARE ALSO FIGHTING WORDS, YES? YOU ARE NOT GIVING UP?
YEAH, MAN, THOSE—
HEY, BEAUTIFUL, WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
GET LOST.
—ARE FIGHTING WORDS!
AND NO, I DON'T GIVE UP!
THEN THE CHALLENGE CONTINUES.

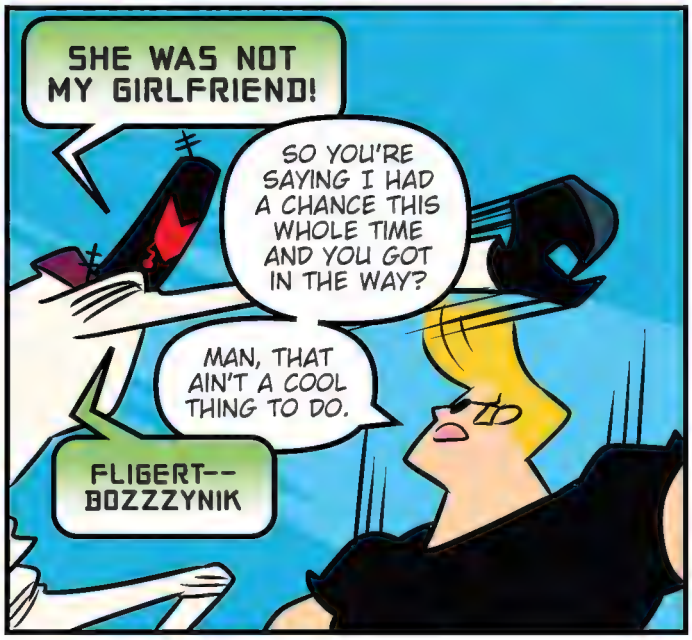

THE ROBOT HAD BEEN PROGRAMMED BY ITS MAKERS TO FIND A CHAMPION.
NFFF— NFFFFFFF FFFF
DO YOU GIVE UP?
NFFFFF— NO!
ZOOM KV
DO YOU GIVE UP NOW?
NO WAY, MAN! HYAH!
TRULY, THERE WAS NO ONE WORTHY IN ARON CITY. THE ROBOT SHOULD HAVE JUST GIVEN UP AND RETURNED HOME.
BUT THE ROBOT WASN'T PROGRAMMED TO WALK AWAY FROM A CHALLENGE... AND ITS MAKERS HAD NEVER CONSIDERED WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN—
IT IS YOUR MOVE.
HMMM...
—IF THE ROBOT EVER MET SOMEONE TOO STUPID TO KNOW WHEN HE WAS BEATEN.
KING ME.
GRRRRRRR...

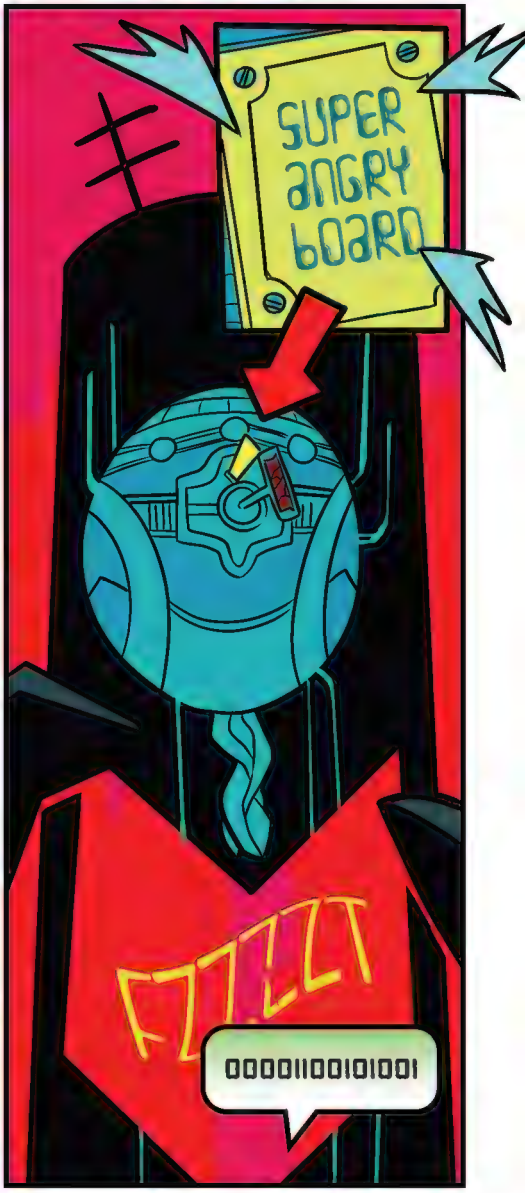
GAAAAAAH!
WHAT IS YOUR MALFUNCTION?!?
KRSNASH
BEG PARDON?
I HAVE BEEN SENT HERE TO COLLECT A CHAMPION FOR MY MASTERS! TO FIND ONE WHO CAN DEFEAT ME, BUT NONE EXIST IN ARON CITY!
AND YOU—YOU ARE AN INCOMPETENT BUFFOON, TOTALLY UNWORTHY, BUT UNTIL YOU ADMIT THAT YOU HAVE LOST, MY PROGRAMMING WILL NOT ALLOW ME TO LEAVE!
SO WHY WON'T YOU—
—JUST...
HEY THERE, GORGEOUS. WANNA HELP ME NAME MY ABS?

MMMMMPPH...
DING
DING
DING
DING
ALERT
MALFUNCTION
ALERT
FZZZZ
FZZZZT
LOGIC BOARD
POP
ANGRY BOARD
FLIP

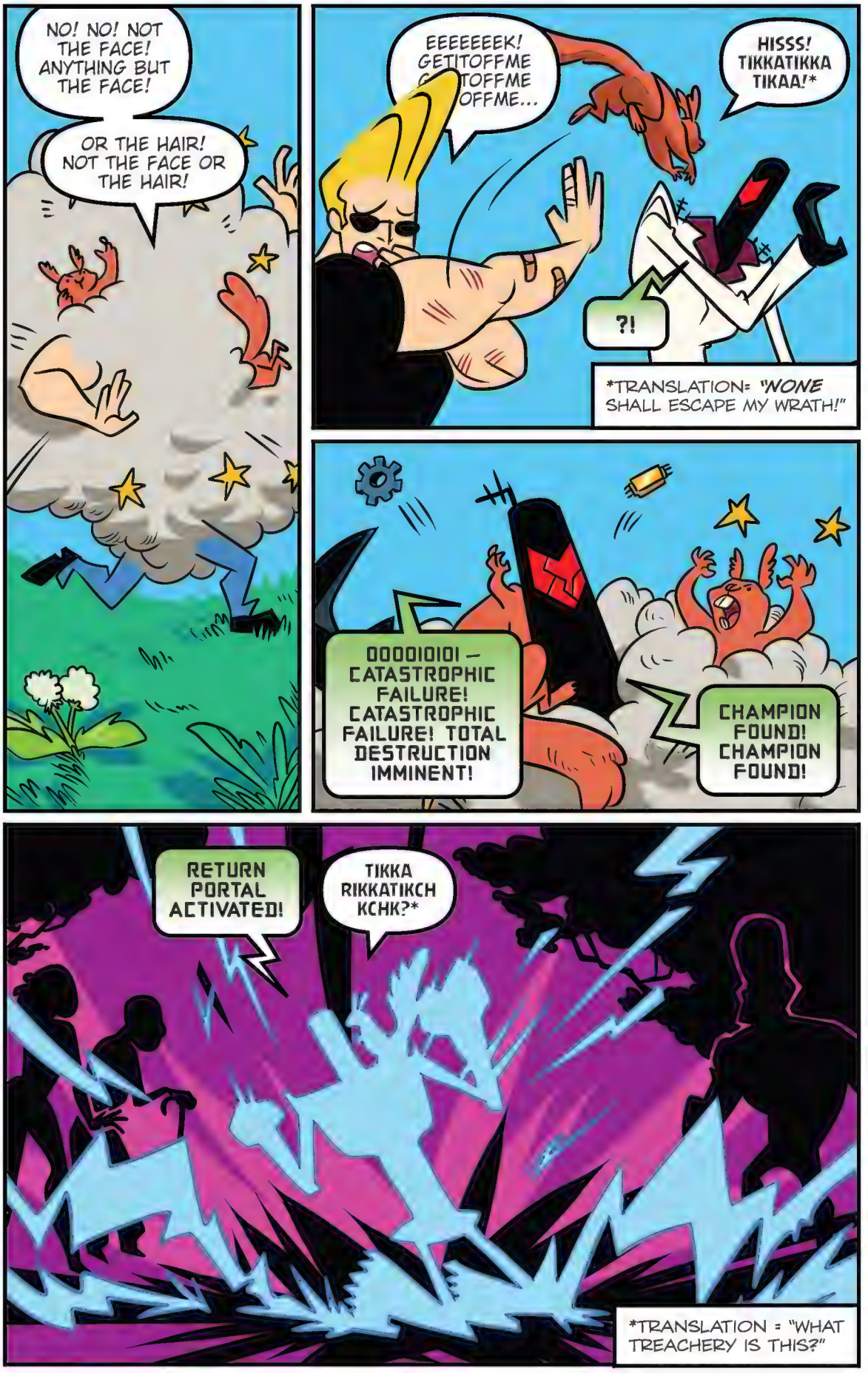
NYAAAAAHHH!
WHAT THE HECK?


IT'S SO CLEAR—I MUST DESTROY YOU, THEN I CAN LEAVE! I MUST DESTROY!
CALM DOWN, FELLA—HO!—SAY, IS THIS 'CAUSE I WAS FLIRTING WITH YOUR GIRLFRIEND?


SHE WAS NOT MY GIRLFRIEND!
SO YOU'RE SAYING I HAD A CHANCE THIS WHOLE TIME AND YOU GOT IN THE WAY?
MAN, THAT AIN'T A COOL THING TO DO.
FLIGERT--BOZZZYNIK


SUPER ANGRY BOARD
FZZZZT
OOOOIIOOIOIOOI

HEY, NOW!
PUT ME DOWN!
OOIOIOOIIIIOOOI-FFZZZT-HEEHEE, I'LL PUT YOU DOWN... OH YES...
WHAM
HEEYAHAHAHA! OOIOIOI
SKRIK? TIKKA TIKKA TIKKA?*
HEY THERE, LITTLE FELLA.
*TRANSLATION= "WHAT? WHO DARES DISTURB MY SLUMBER?"
EEK!
HISSSS*
*TRANSLATION= "YOU SHALL PAY DEARLY FOR THIS!"


NO! NO! NOT THE FACE! ANYTHING BUT THE FACE!
OR THE HAIR! NOT THE FACE OR THE HAIR!
EEEEEEEK! GETITOFFME
OFFME...
HISSS! TIKKATIKKA TIKAA!*
?!
*TRANSLATION: "NONE SHALL ESCAPE MY WRATH!"
OOOOIOIOI — CATASTROPHIC FAILURE! CATASTROPHIC FAILURE! TOTAL DESTRUCTION IMMINENT!
CHAMPION FOUND! CHAMPION FOUND!
RETURN PORTAL ACTIVATED!
TIKKA RIKKATIKCH KCHK?*
*TRANSLATION = "WHAT TREACHERY IS THIS?"

FWAASSSSHHHH
THAT WAS... THAT WAS...
IT WAS AMAZING, I AGREE.
...JUST LIKE MY PECS. WANNA TOUCH 'EM?
WHAM
CREEP!
MERCY, YOU HIT LIKE A SQUIRREL...
END

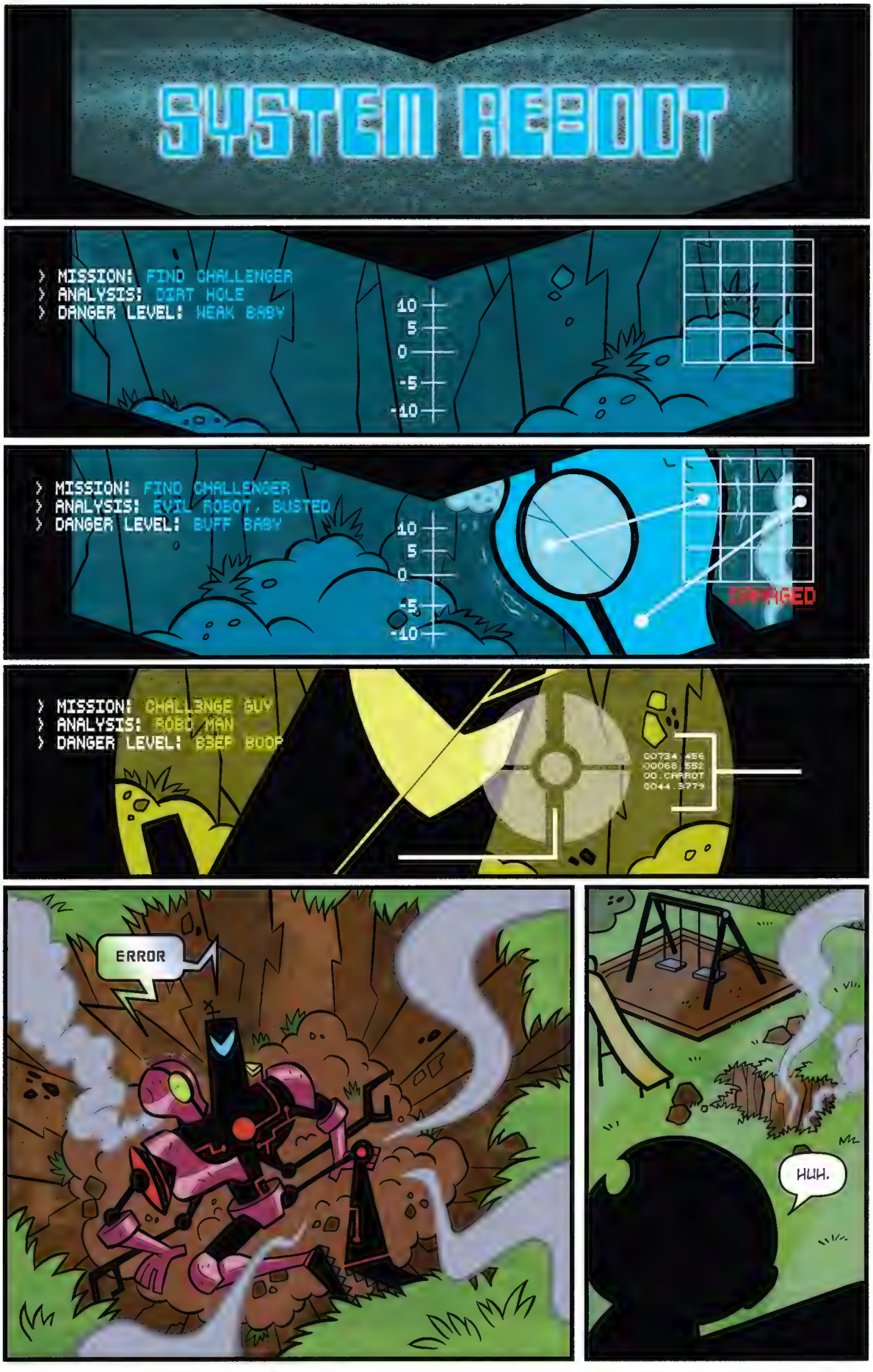
Cover Art by: Ethen Beavers

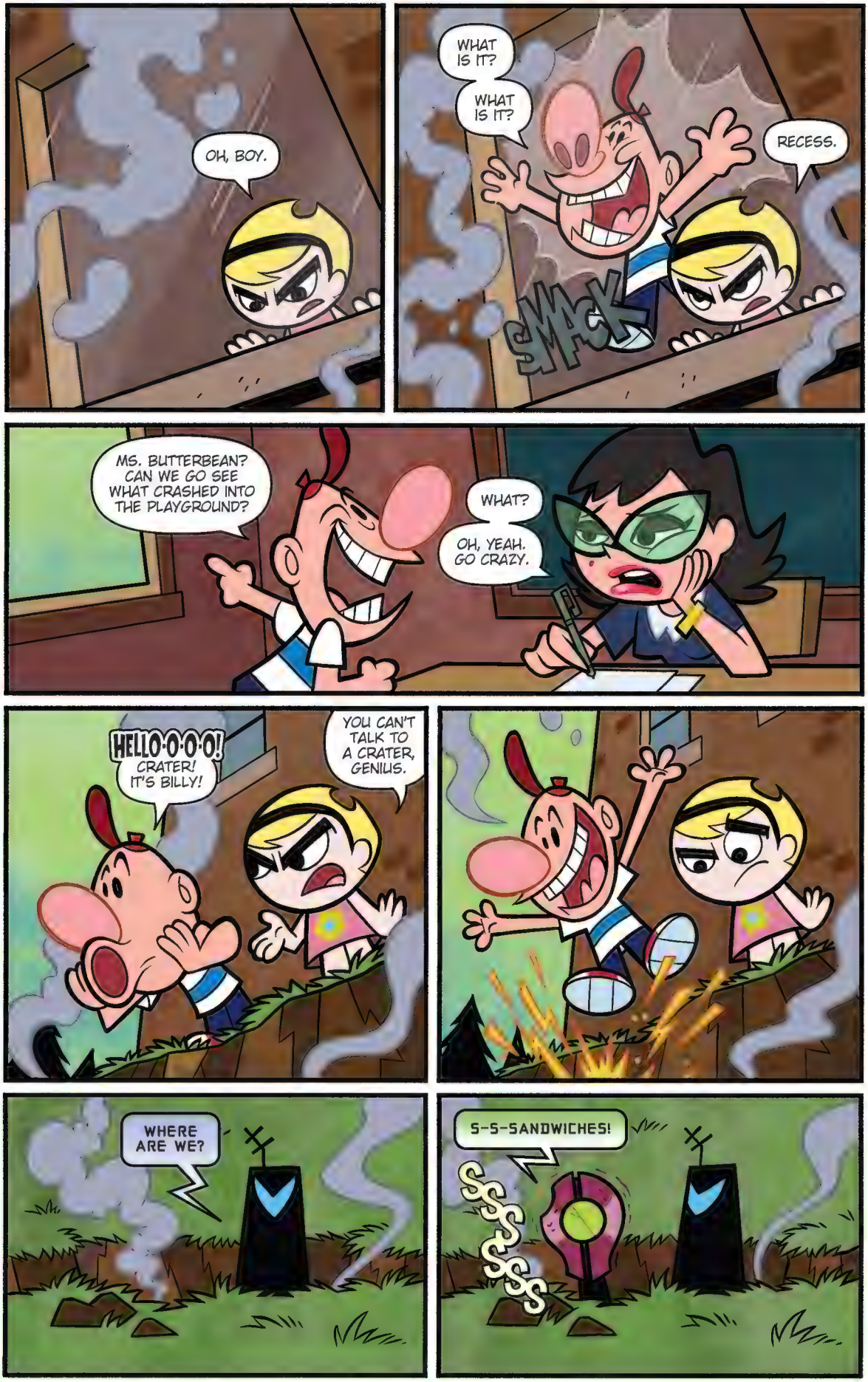
Chapter 2

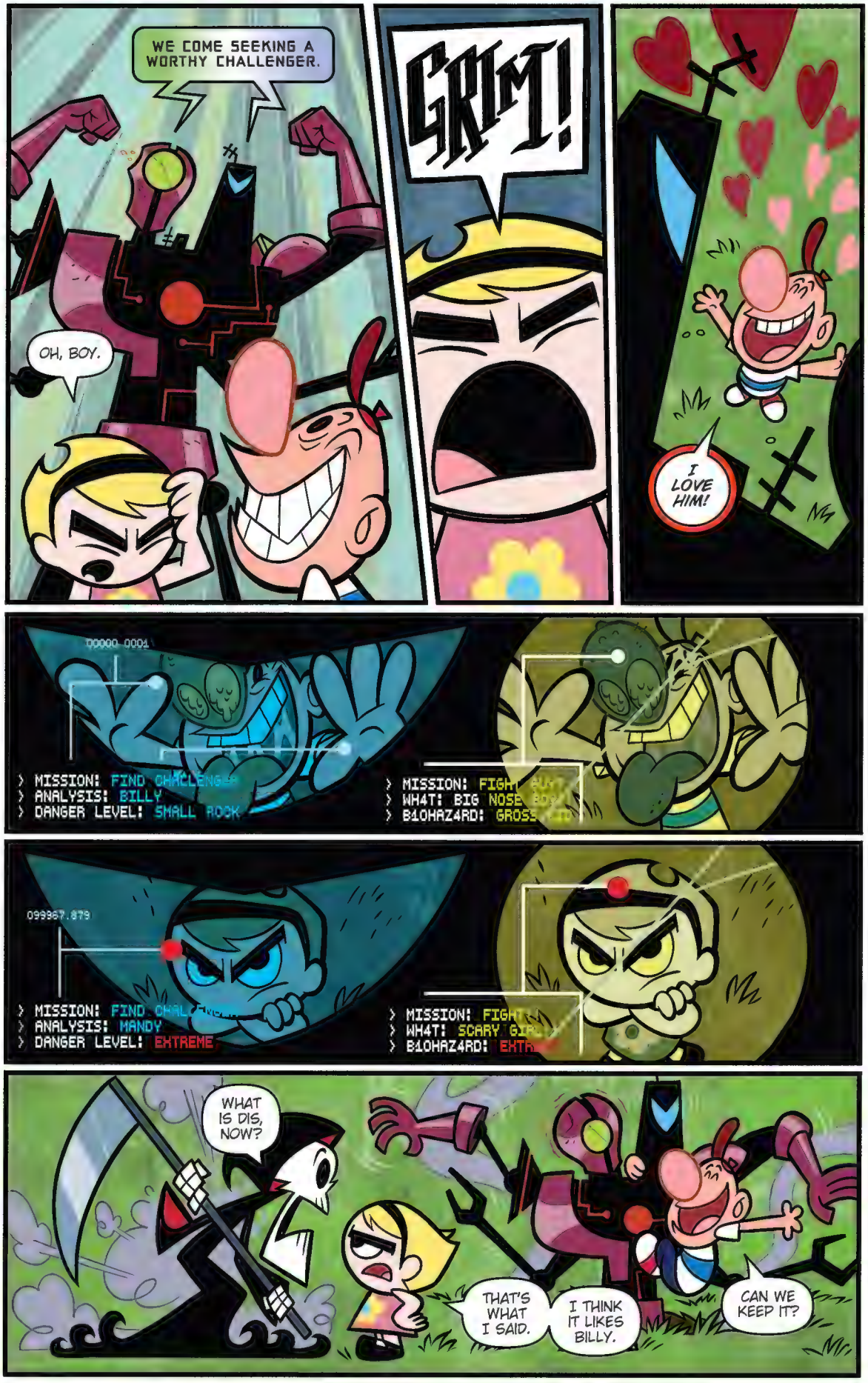
Written by Kate Leth Art by Troy Little

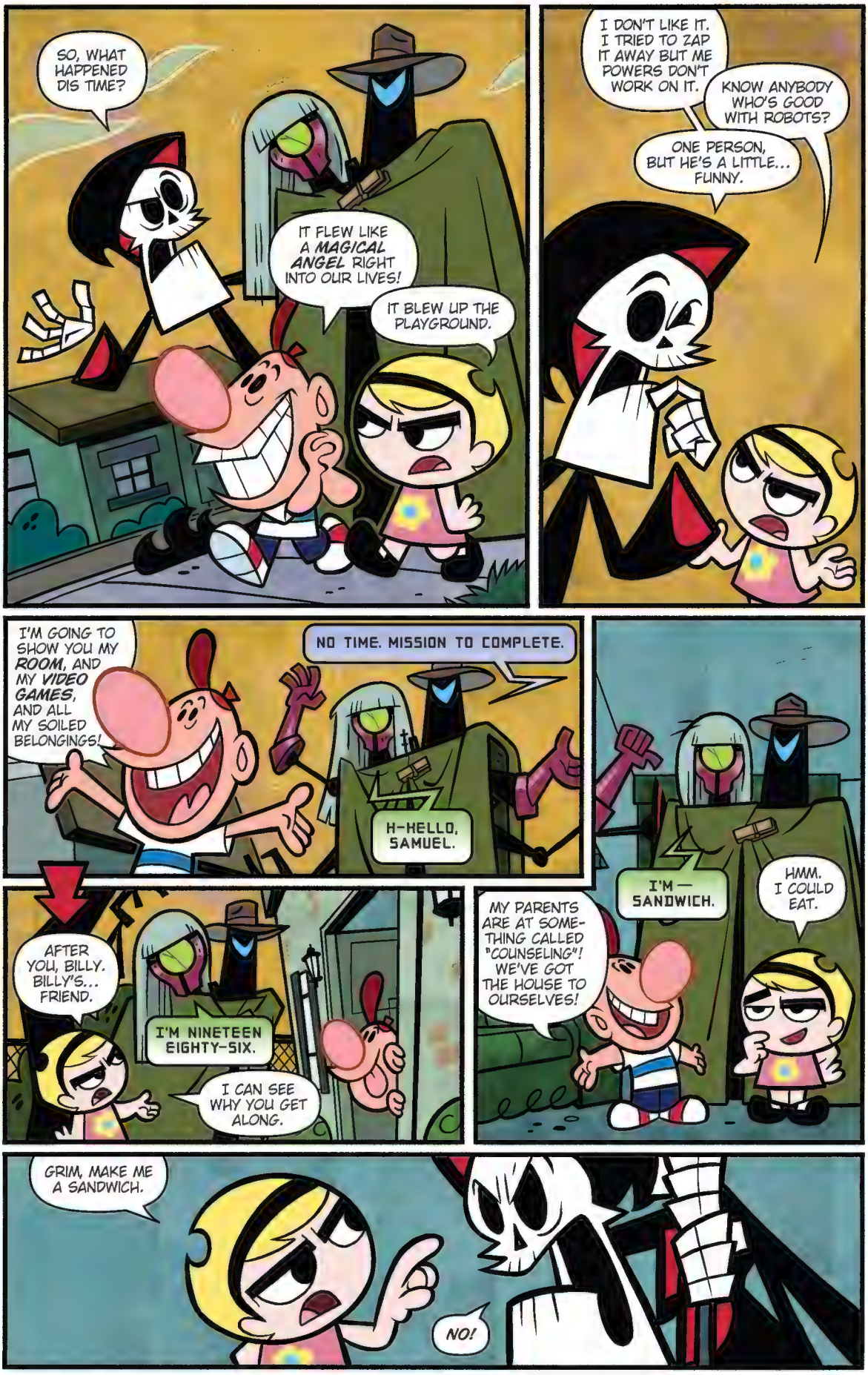
Cover Art by: Troy Little

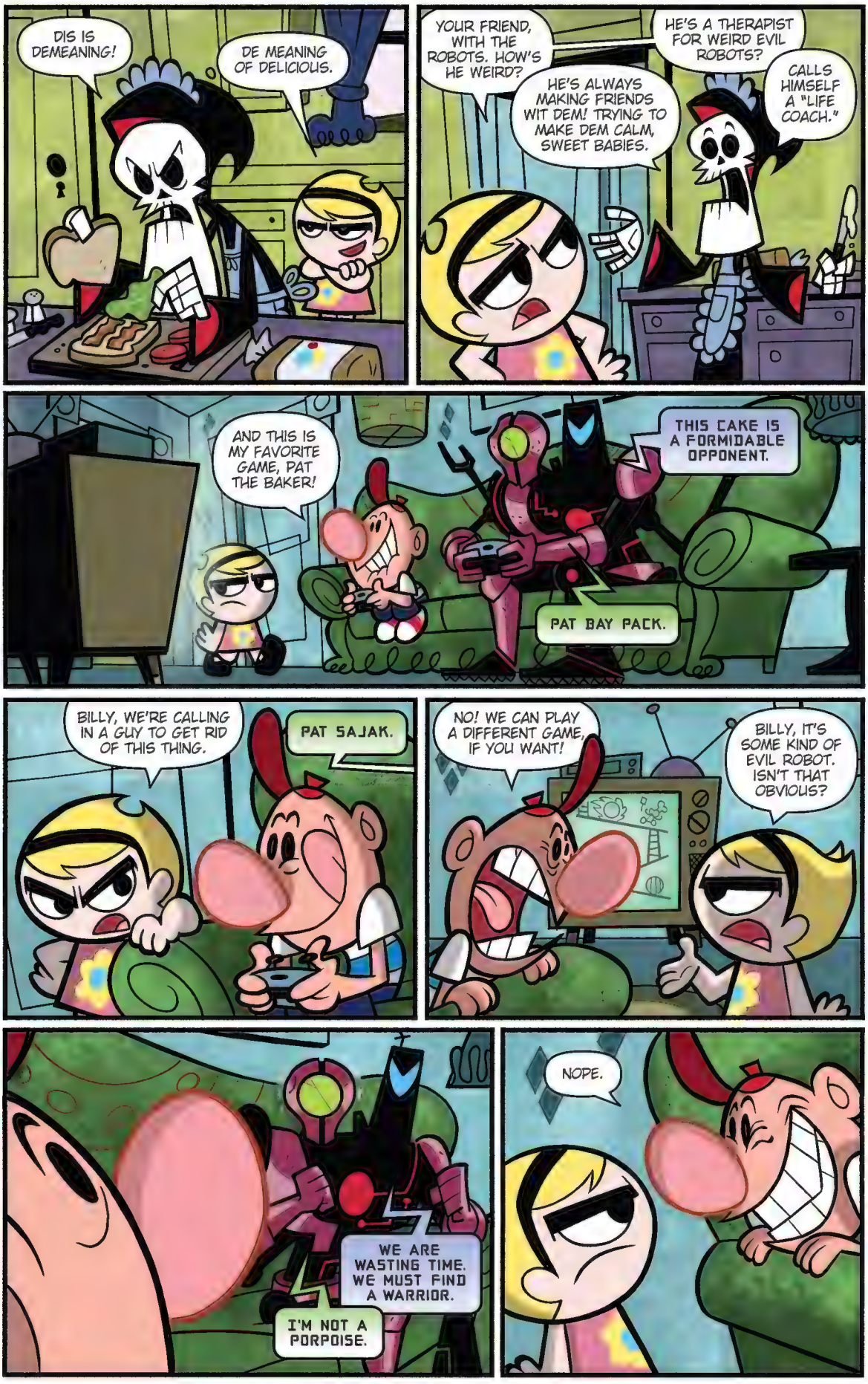
THE CITY OF—UHHH, SPACE?!
WATCH OUT!
ALERT!
DISASTER!
WOOP
MAYHEM!
WOOP
WOOP
PING!


SYSTEM REBOOT
> MISSION: FIND CHALLENGER
> ANALYSIS: DIRT HOLE
> DANGER LEVEL: WEAK BABY
10
5
0
-5
-10
> MISSION: FIND CHALLENGER
> ANALYSIS: EVIL ROBOT, BUSTED
> DANGER LEVEL: BUFF BABY
10
5
0
-5
-10
DAMAGED
> MISSION: CHALLENGE GUY
> ANALYSIS: ROBO MAN
> DANGER LEVEL: BEEP BOOP
00734.456
00068.552
00.CARROT
0044.5779
ERROR
HUH.

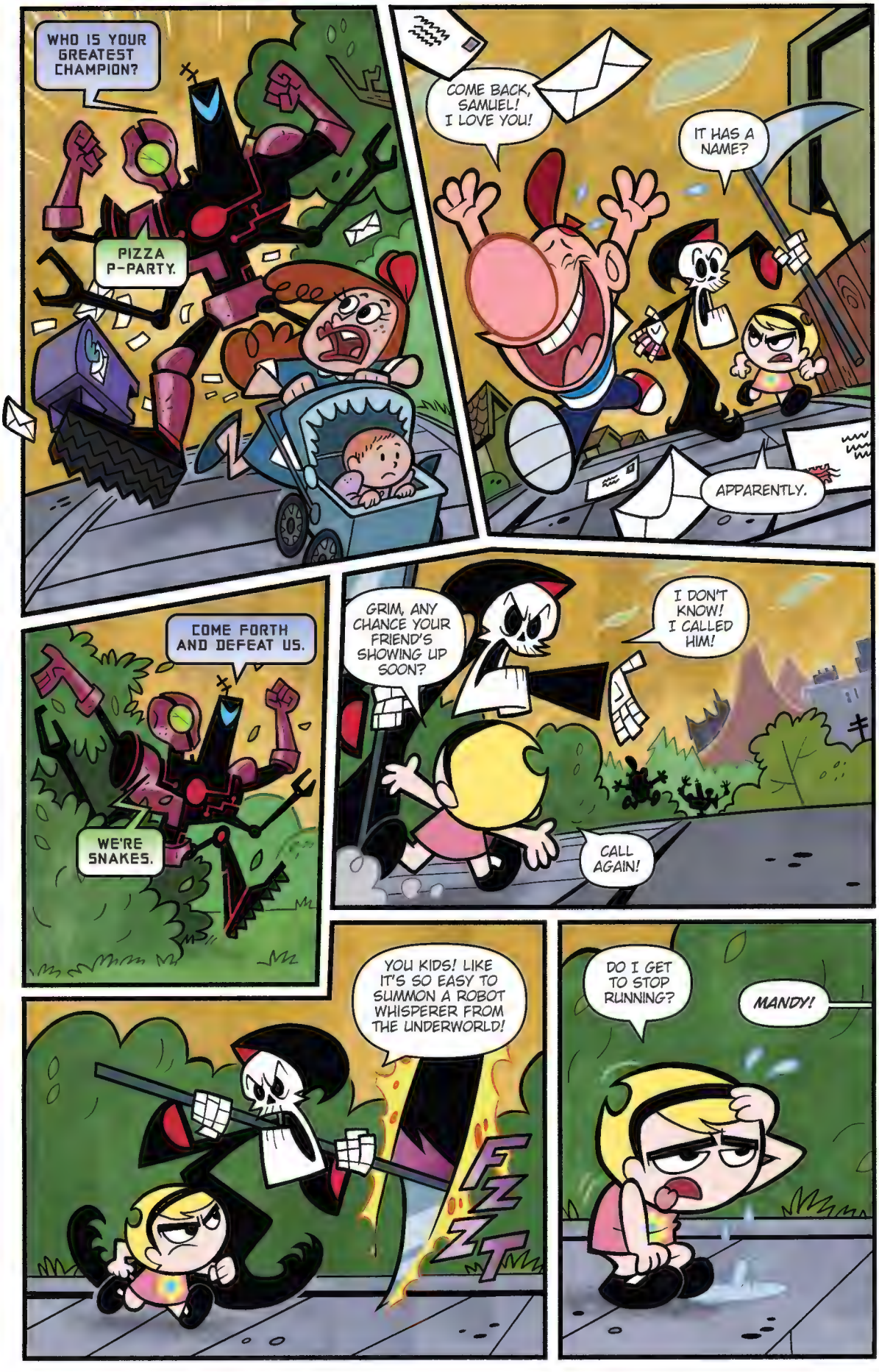

OH, BOY.
WHAT IS IT?
WHAT IS IT?
RECESS.
SMACK
MS. BUTTERBEAN? CAN WE GO SEE WHAT CRASHED INTO THE PLAYGROUND?
WHAT?
OH, YEAH. GO CRAZY.
HELLO-O-O-O!
CRATER! IT'S BILLY!
YOU CAN'T TALK TO A CRATER, GENIUS.
WHERE ARE WE?
S-S-SANDWICHES!
SSSSSS

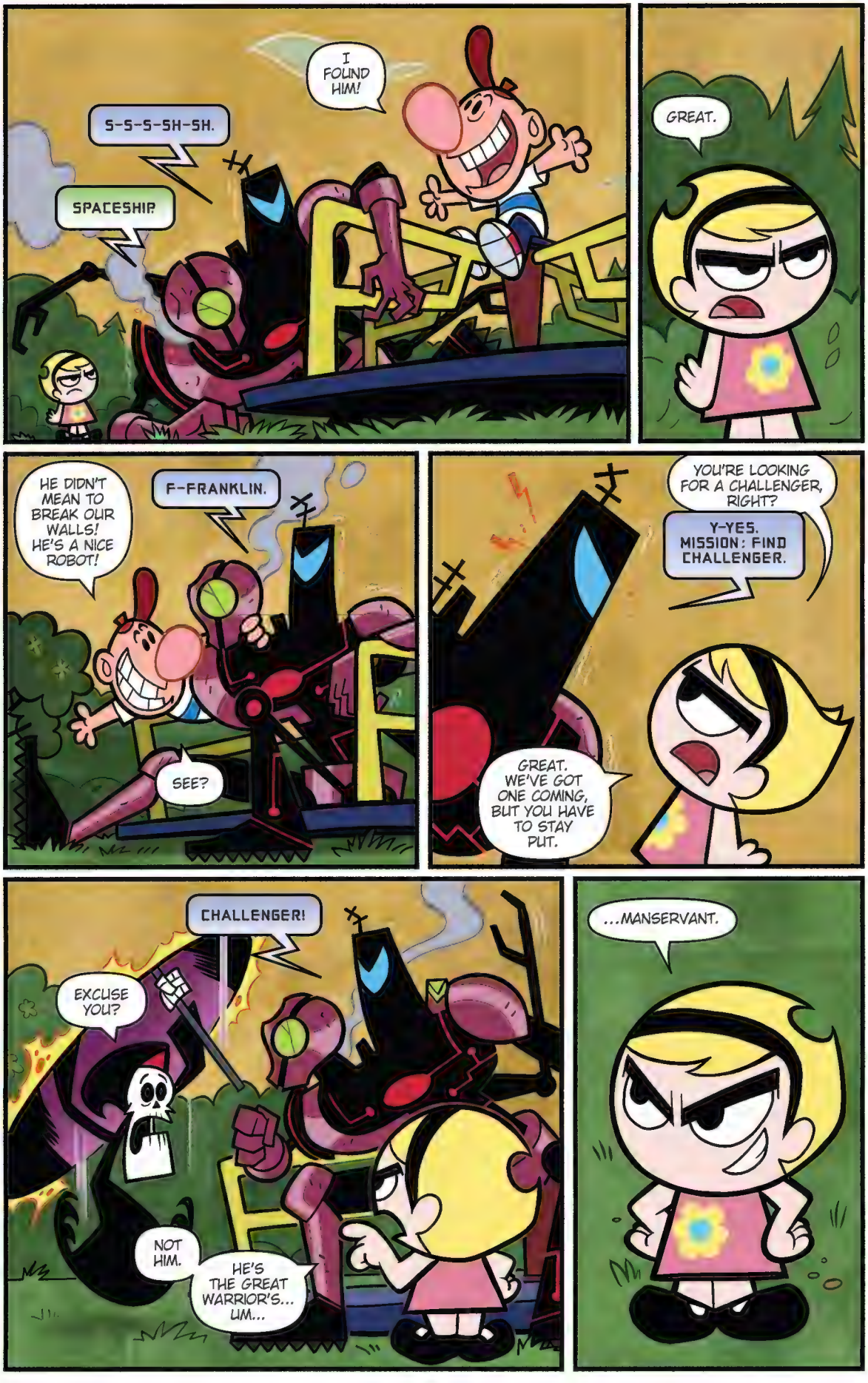

WE COME SEEKING A WORTHY CHALLENGER.
OH, BOY.
GRIM!
I LOVE HIM!
00000.0004
> MISSION: FIND CHALLENGER
> ANALYSIS: BILLY
> DANGER LEVEL: SMALL ROCK
> MISSION: FIGHT BILLY
> WH4T: BIG NOSE BOY
> B1OHAZ4RD: GROSS
099867.879
> MISSION: FIND CHALLENGER
> ANALYSIS: MANDY
> DANGER LEVEL: EXTREME
> MISSION: FIGHT
> WH4T: SCARY GIRL
> B1OHAZ4RD: EXTR
WHAT IS DIS, NOW?
THAT'S WHAT I SAID.
I THINK IT LIKES BILLY.
CAN WE KEEP IT?


SO, WHAT HAPPENED DIS TIME?
IT FLEW LIKE A MAGICAL ANGEL RIGHT INTO OUR LIVES!
IT BLEW UP THE PLAYGROUND.
I DON'T LIKE IT. I TRIED TO ZAP IT AWAY BUT ME POWERS DON'T WORK ON IT.
KNOW ANYBODY WHO'S GOOD WITH ROBOTS?
ONE PERSON, BUT HE'S A LITTLE... FUNNY.
I'M GOING TO SHOW YOU MY ROOM, AND MY VIDEO GAMES, AND ALL MY SOILED BELONGINGS!
NO TIME. MISSION TO COMPLETE.
H-HELLO, SAMUEL.
I'M — SANDWICH.
HMM. I COULD EAT.
MY PARENTS ARE AT SOMETHING CALLED "COUNSELING"! WE'VE GOT THE HOUSE TO OURSELVES!
AFTER YOU, BILLY. BILLY'S... FRIEND.
I'M NINETEEN EIGHTY-SIX.
I CAN SEE WHY YOU GET ALONG.
GRIM, MAKE ME A SANDWICH.
NO!

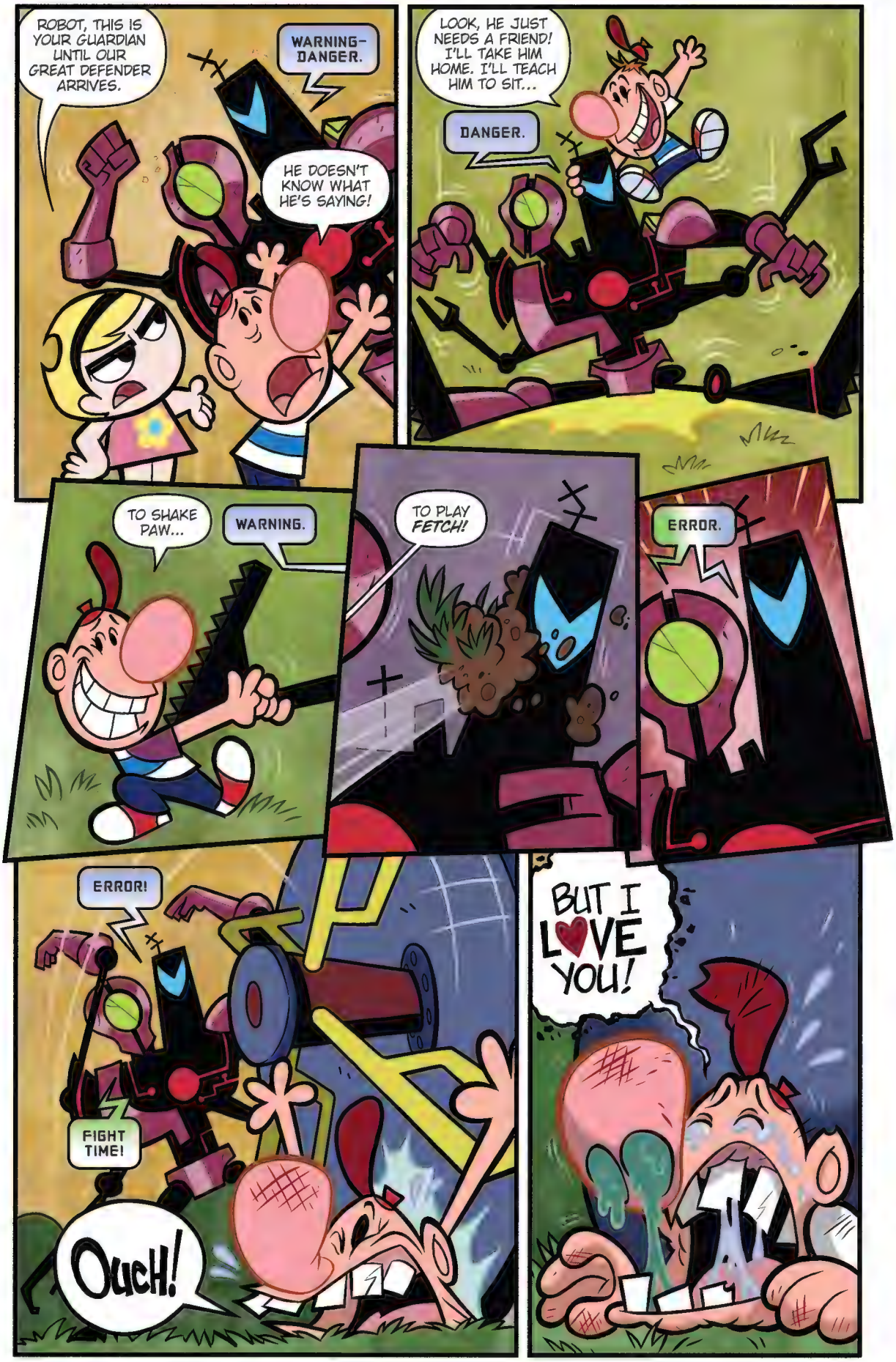

DIS IS DEMEANING!
DE MEANING OF DELICIOUS.
YOUR FRIEND, WITH THE ROBOTS. HOW'S HE WEIRD?
HE'S ALWAYS MAKING FRIENDS WIT DEM! TRYING TO MAKE DEM CALM, SWEET BABIES.
HE'S A THERAPIST FOR WEIRD EVIL ROBOTS?
CALLS HIMSELF A "LIFE COACH."
AND THIS IS MY FAVORITE GAME, PAT THE BAKER!
THIS CAKE IS A FORMIDABLE OPPONENT.
PAT BAY PACK.
BILLY, WE'RE CALLING IN A GUY TO GET RID OF THIS THING.
PAT SAJAK.
NO! WE CAN PLAY A DIFFERENT GAME, IF YOU WANT!
BILLY, IT'S SOME KIND OF EVIL ROBOT. ISN'T THAT OBVIOUS?
WE ARE WASTING TIME. WE MUST FIND A WARRIOR.
I'M NOT A PORPOISE.
NOPE.

WHO ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?
A CHALLENGER WORTHY OF OUR MASTERS.
WALDO.
SEE? HE JUST WANTS TO PLAY! I FOUND HIM AND HE'S MY FRIEND NOW!
WE'LL TAKE YOU BACK TO WHEREVER YOU CAME FROM.
NO!
WE HAVEN'T EVEN BAKED COOKIES YET!
IT'S ON SOME KIND OF MISSION!
WE'RE GONNA MAKE FRIENDSHIP PIES!
IT'S EVIL.
IT'S NOT!
IT'S A ROBOT.
IT'S NOT!
IT'S—
GONE!
CRASH
GRIM, CALL YOUR FRIEND.


WHO IS YOUR GREATEST CHAMPION?
PIZZA P-PARTY.
COME BACK, SAMUEL! I LOVE YOU!
IT HAS A NAME?
APPARENTLY.
COME FORTH AND DEFEAT US.
WE'RE SNAKES.
GRIM, ANY CHANCE YOUR FRIEND'S SHOWING UP SOON?
I DON'T KNOW! I CALLED HIM!
CALL AGAIN!
YOU KIDS! LIKE IT'S SO EASY TO SUMMON A ROBOT WHISPERER FROM THE UNDERWORLD!
FZZT
DO I GET TO STOP RUNNING?
MANDY!

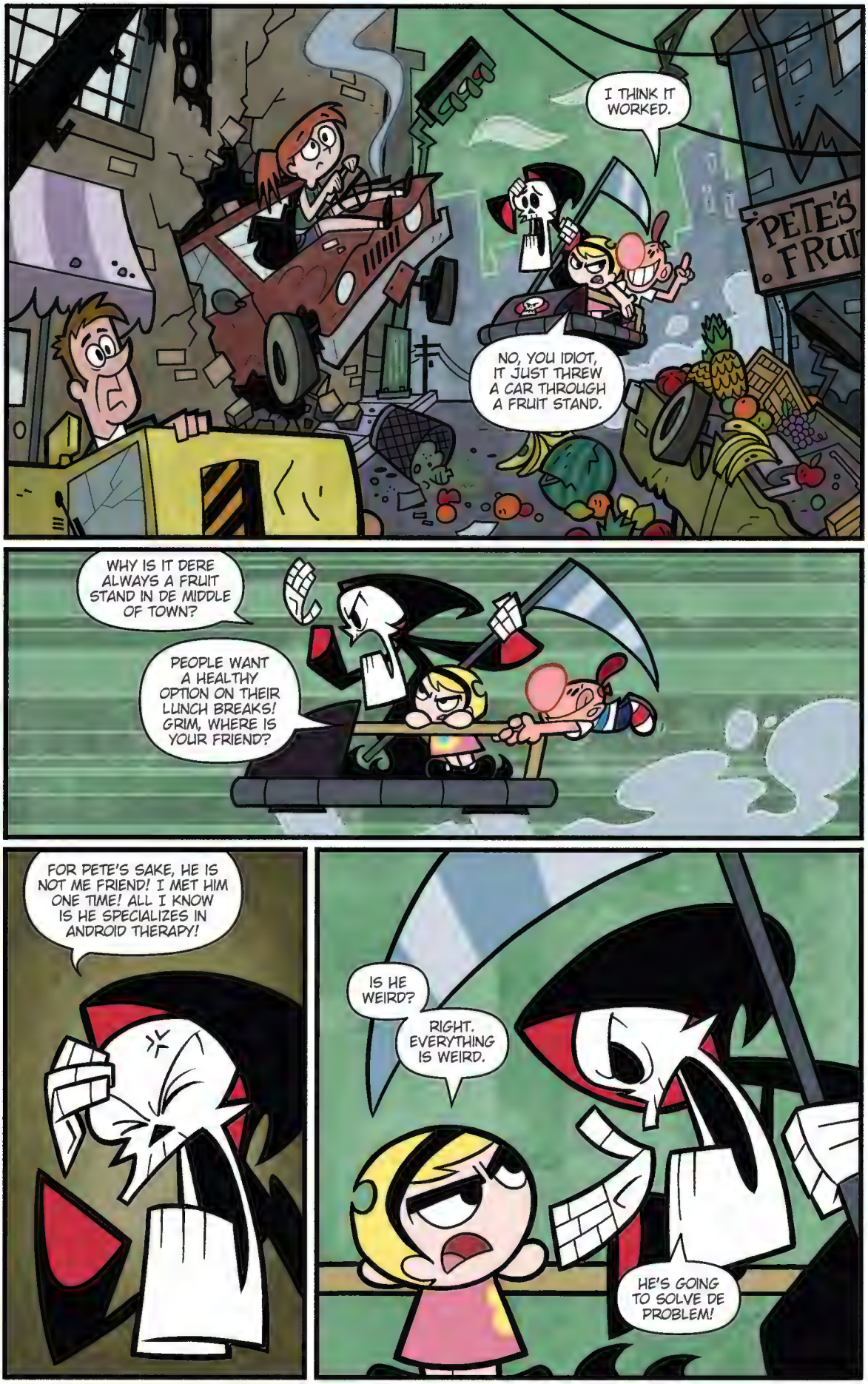

I FOUND HIM!
S-S-S-SH-SH.
SPACESHIP
GREAT.
HE DIDN'T MEAN TO BREAK OUR WALLS! HE'S A NICE ROBOT!
F-FRANKLIN.
SEE?
YOU'RE LOOKING FOR A CHALLENGER, RIGHT?
Y-YES. MISSION: FIND CHALLENGER.
GREAT. WE'VE GOT ONE COMING, BUT YOU HAVE TO STAY PUT.
CHALLENGER!
EXCUSE YOU?
NOT HIM.
HE'S THE GREAT WARRIOR'S... UM...
...MANSERVANT.

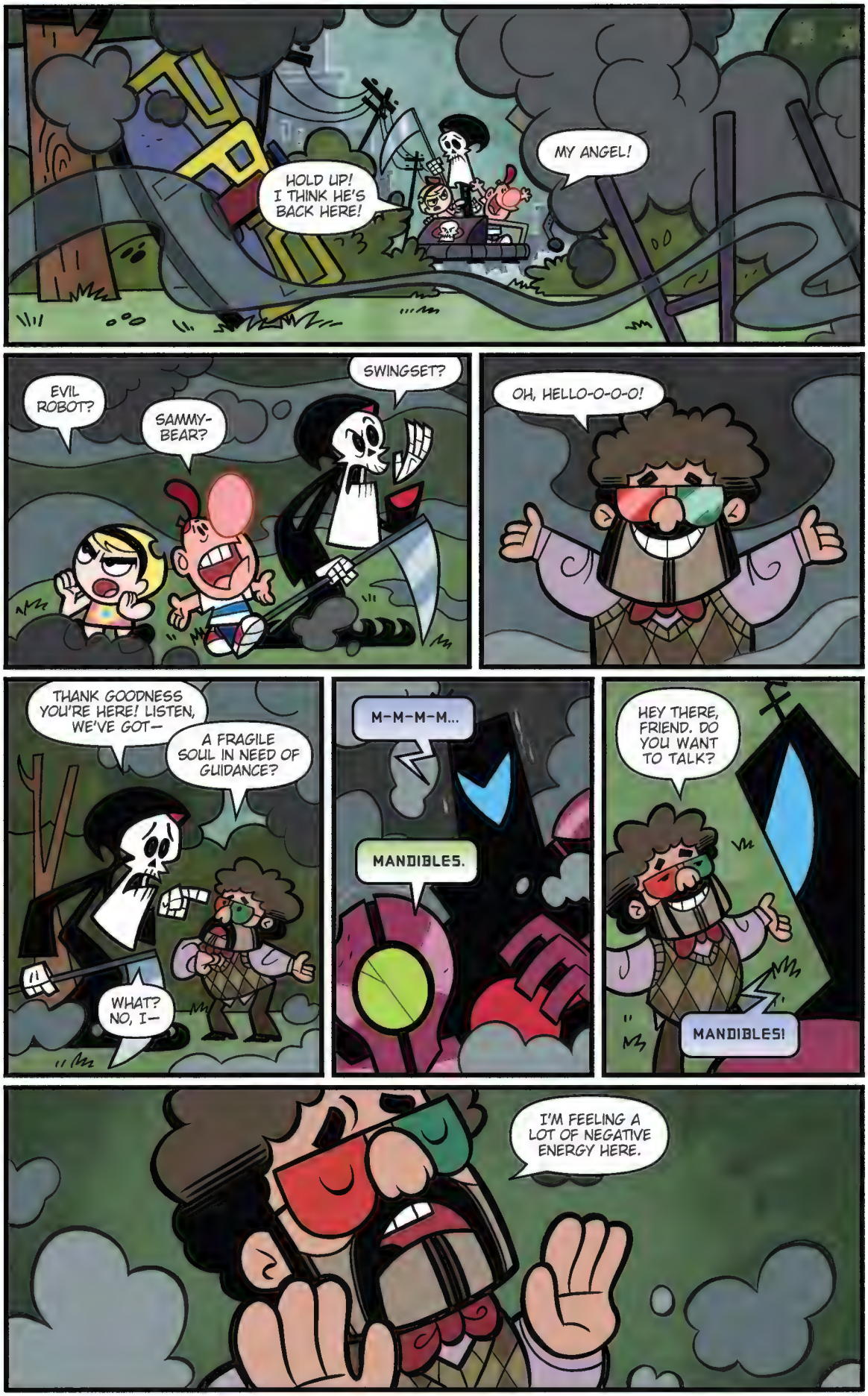
I'M A WHAT NOW?!
TELL ME YOU'RE GETTING THIS THING OUT OF HERE.
YOU DECIDED TO MAKE HIM YOUR BEST FRIEND!
THE ROBOT, GRIM.
OH!
THE "LIFE COACH," AS HE CALLS HIMSELF, IS BOOKED UP UNTIL TUESDAY.
THAT'S NOT FOR THREE WHOLE DAYS!
NOT EVERYONE CAN PUT DOWN THEIR WHOLE SCHEDULE JUST BECAUSE EVIL ROBOTS—
FINE, BUT WE'VE GOT TO STALL THAT ROBOT. PRETEND THE THERAPIST'S A TOUGH GUY, AND YOU'RE HIS... BUTLER.
WHY AM I DE BUTLER?
BECAUSE I SAID SO.
DOES THIS MEAN WE CAN KEEP IT?
ERROR.


ROBOT, THIS IS YOUR GUARDIAN UNTIL OUR GREAT DEFENDER ARRIVES.
WARNING- DANGER.
HE DOESN'T KNOW WHAT HE'S SAYING!
LOOK, HE JUST NEEDS A FRIEND! I'LL TAKE HIM HOME. I'LL TEACH HIM TO SIT...
DANGER.
TO SHAKE PAW...
WARNING.
TO PLAY FETCH!
ERROR.
ERROR!
FIGHT TIME!
Ouch!
BUT I LOVE YOU!

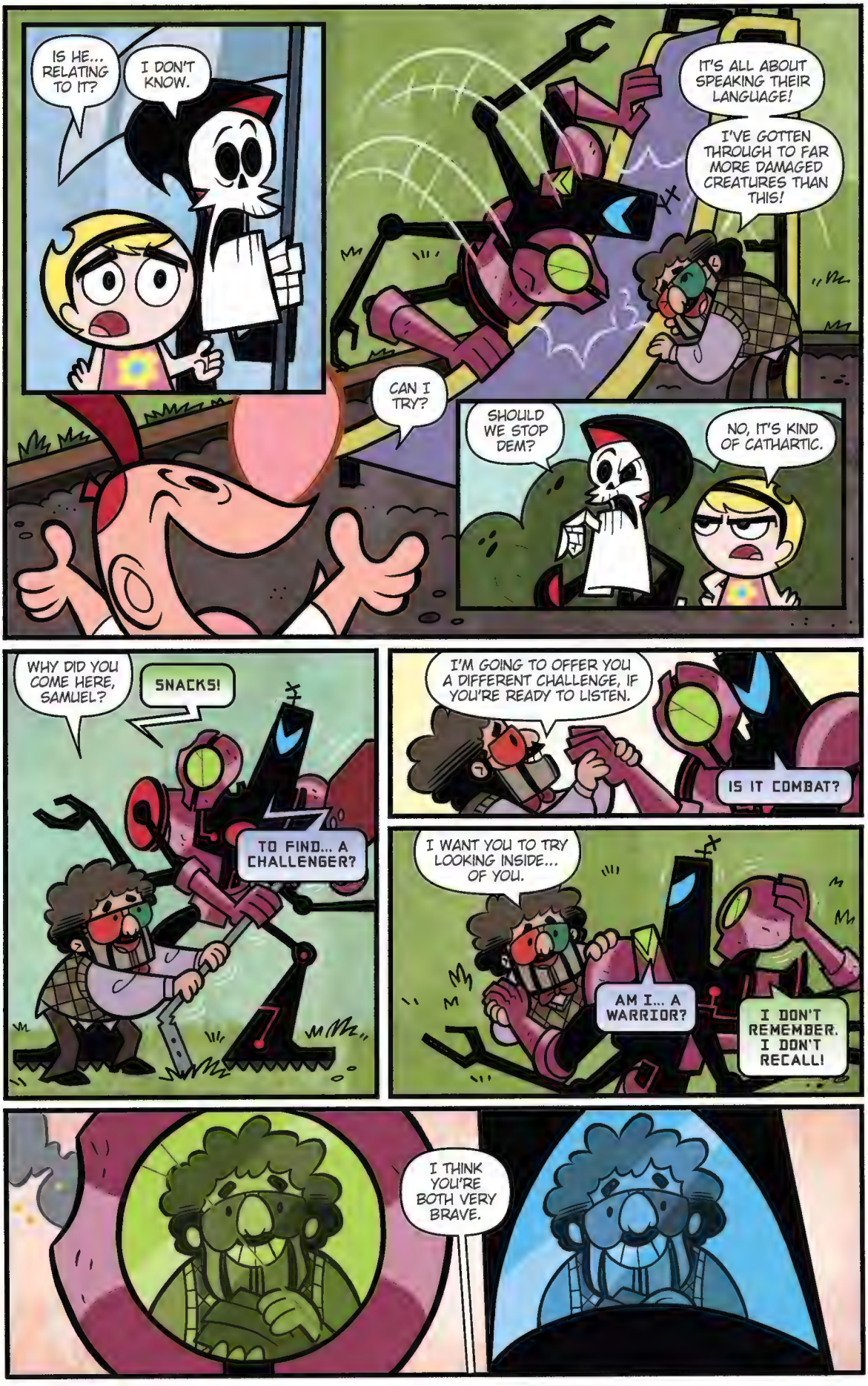
I TINK HE'S HEADED DOWNTOWN.
WHERE DID SAMUEL GO?
HE TORE OFF AFTER HE FLIPPED THE ROUND-ABOUT.
EVILVILLE PARK
HE'S A REAL SON OF A GUN.
I HAVE TO ADMIRE HIS STYLE, HONESTLY.
SAMUEL!
HIS NAME ISN'T SAMUEL, HE'S AN EVIL ROBOT!
HE LOOKS LIKE A SAMUEL TO ME-E-E-E!
HE LOOKS LIKE A MENACE! TO SOCIETY!
WHATEVER HE IS, HE LOVES ARSON.
LOOK!

SAMUEL!
ARE YOU BRAVE ENOUGH?
I'M NOT SURE I UNDERSTAND THE CONTEXT—
CRASH
HELLO FRIEND.
HE'S YOUR PET.
COME DOWN!
LET'S PLAY VIDEO GAMES!
CANNOT COMPROMISE MISSION.
VIDEO... GAMES!
ERROR! ERROR!
YOU ARE THE DUCK HUNTER! I AM THE DUCK HUNTED!
CRSHH


I THINK IT WORKED.
NO, YOU IDIOT, IT JUST THREW A CAR THROUGH A FRUIT STAND.
PETE'S FRUI
WHY IS IT DERE ALWAYS A FRUIT STAND IN DE MIDDLE OF TOWN?
PEOPLE WANT A HEALTHY OPTION ON THEIR LUNCH BREAKS! GRIM, WHERE IS YOUR FRIEND?
FOR PETE'S SAKE, HE IS NOT ME FRIEND! I MET HIM ONE TIME! ALL I KNOW IS HE SPECIALIZES IN ANDROID THERAPY!
IS HE WEIRD?
RIGHT. EVERYTHING IS WEIRD.
HE'S GOING TO SOLVE DE PROBLEM!


HOLD UP! I THINK HE'S BACK HERE!
MY ANGEL!
EVIL ROBOT?
SAMMY-BEAR?
SWINGSET?
OH, HELLO-O-O-O!
THANK GOODNESS YOU'RE HERE! LISTEN, WE'VE GOT—
A FRAGILE SOUL IN NEED OF GUIDANCE?
WHAT? NO, I—
M-M-M-M...
MANDIBLES.
HEY THERE, FRIEND. DO YOU WANT TO TALK?
MANDIBLES!
I'M FEELING A LOT OF NEGATIVE ENERGY HERE.

WHAT.
OH, BOY.
IS HE A WITCH?!
ERROR! ALIGNMENT! SPROTS.
WE LOVE!
THE FIRE!
FWOOM
IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S ACTING OUT.
HE FLATTENED A CITY BLOCK.
FWOOM
YOU JUST HAVE TO KNOW HOW TO RELATE TO THEM!
IT'S ALL BODY LANGUAGE!
KICK
BODIES.


IS HE... RELATING TO IT?
I DON'T KNOW.
IT'S ALL ABOUT SPEAKING THEIR LANGUAGE!
I'VE GOTTEN THROUGH TO FAR MORE DAMAGED CREATURES THAN THIS!
CAN I TRY?
SHOULD WE STOP DEM?
NO, IT'S KIND OF CATHARTIC.
WHY DID YOU COME HERE, SAMUEL?
SNACKS!
TO FIND... A CHALLENGER?
I'M GOING TO OFFER YOU A DIFFERENT CHALLENGE, IF YOU'RE READY TO LISTEN.
IS IT COMBAT?
I WANT YOU TO TRY LOOKING INSIDE... OF YOU.
AM I... A WARRIOR?
I DON'T REMEMBER. I DON'T RECALL!
I THINK YOU'RE BOTH VERY BRAVE.

IS THIS REALLY HAPPENING?
I TINK IT'S WORKING.
THERE'S NO HOPE FOR HUMANITY.
YEP, WE'RE DOOMED.
MISSION: SMILES!!
YOU STILL HAVE THOSE SANDWICHES?
END

Cover Art by: Ethen Beavers

Chapter 3

Written by Ivan Cohen Art by Paulina Ganucheau

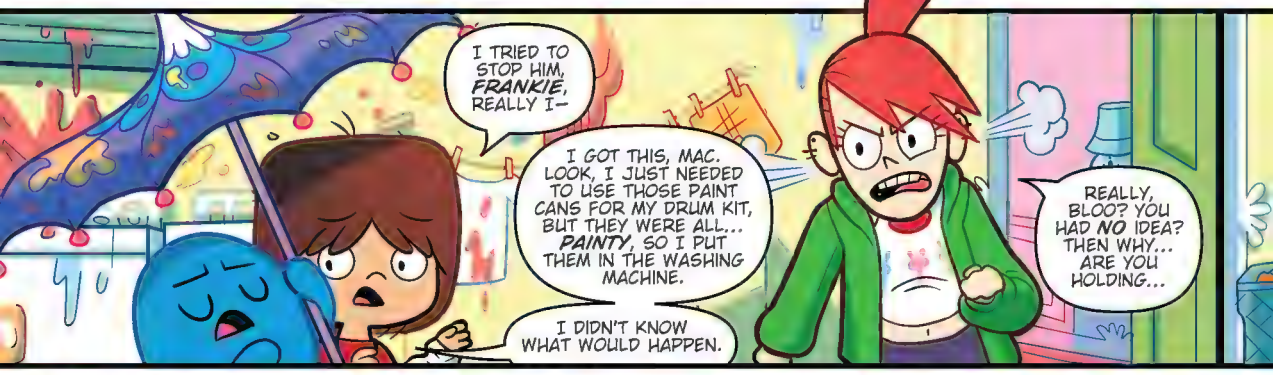
Cover Art by: Brittney Williams

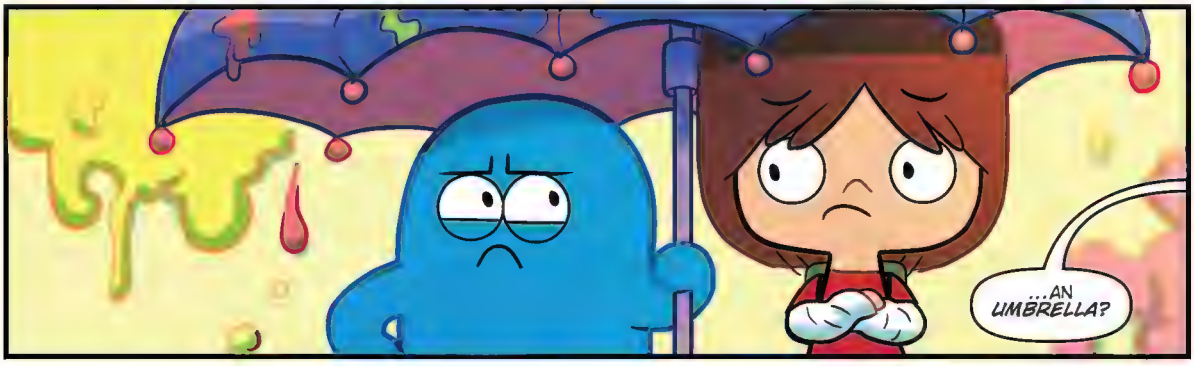
VWHOOOSH
UNIT 3XL HAS ARRIVED.
INITIATING SCAN FOR MOST POWERFUL CHAMPION ON THE PLANET.
CANDIDATE CLUSTER DETECTED. TARGETING.
SETTING COURSE FOR BUILDING DESIGNATED...

"...FOSTER'S HOME FOR IMAGINARY FRIENDS."
BA-BLOOO

BLOO!!! MAC!!!

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO THE LAUNDRY ROOM? DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW MUCH TIME THIS WILL TAKE TO FIX?
WHAT WERE YOU THINKING?


I TRIED TO STOP HIM, FRANKIE, REALLY I—
I GOT THIS, MAC. LOOK, I JUST NEEDED TO USE THOSE PAINT CANS FOR MY DRUM KIT, BUT THEY WERE ALL... PAINTY, SO I PUT THEM IN THE WASHING MACHINE.
I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT WOULD HAPPEN.
REALLY, BLOO? YOU HAD NO IDEA? THEN WHY... ARE YOU HOLDING...


...AN UMBRELLA?

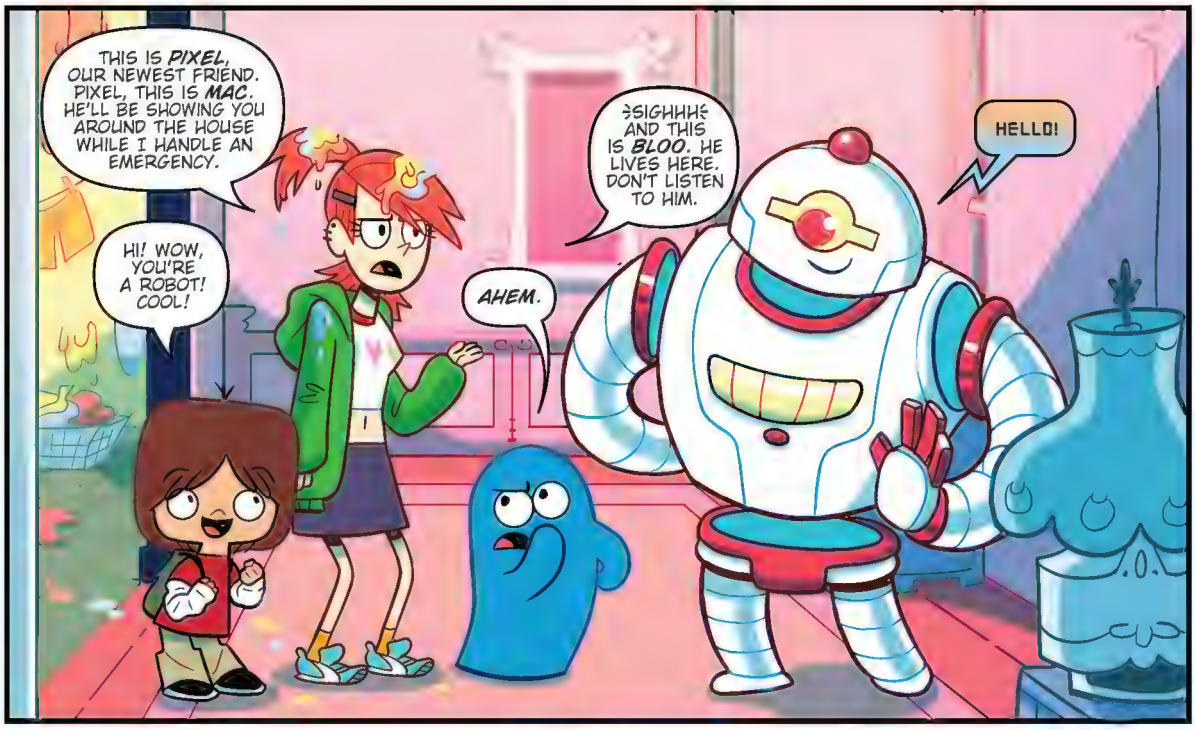
LET'S NOT START POINTING FINGERS ABOUT WHO KNEW WHAT. WHAT'S IMPORTANT IS—
THAT NO ONE GOT HURT?
THAT I STILL NEED SOME CANS.
NO, YOU NEED TO STAY OUT OF MY WAY UNTIL I CAN GET THIS CLEANED UP AND—
MS. FRANKIE? IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN DO TO HELP?

DARN IT, BLOO! YOU MADE ME FORGET WHAT I WAS DOING.
JUST A SECOND!

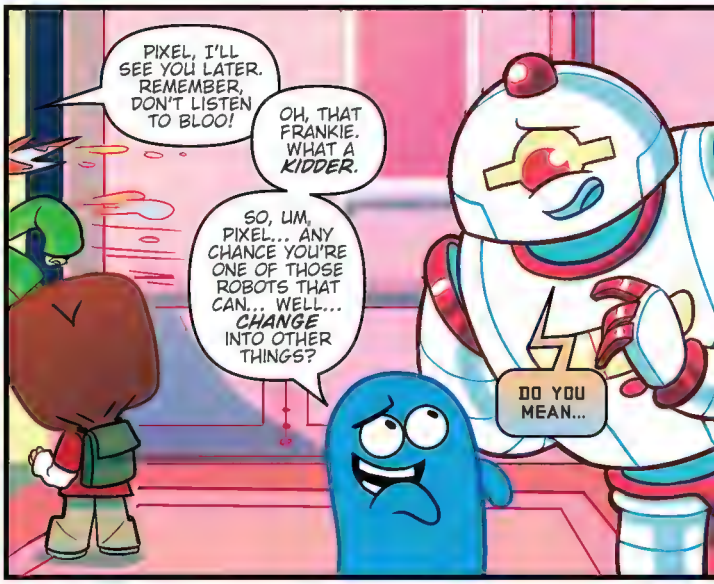
MAC, I NEED YOU TO DO ME A FAVOR.
WHILE I'M GETTING ALL THIS CLEANED UP, CAN YOU SHOW A NEW FRIEND AROUND THE HOUSE?
HEY, WHAT ABOUT ME? I'M THE ONE WHO LIVES HERE!

YOU? PLEASE. I NEED SOMEONE RESPONSIBLE TO DO THIS.
I'M OFFENDED. I'M TOTALLY...

SPLAT
...RESPONSIBLE.

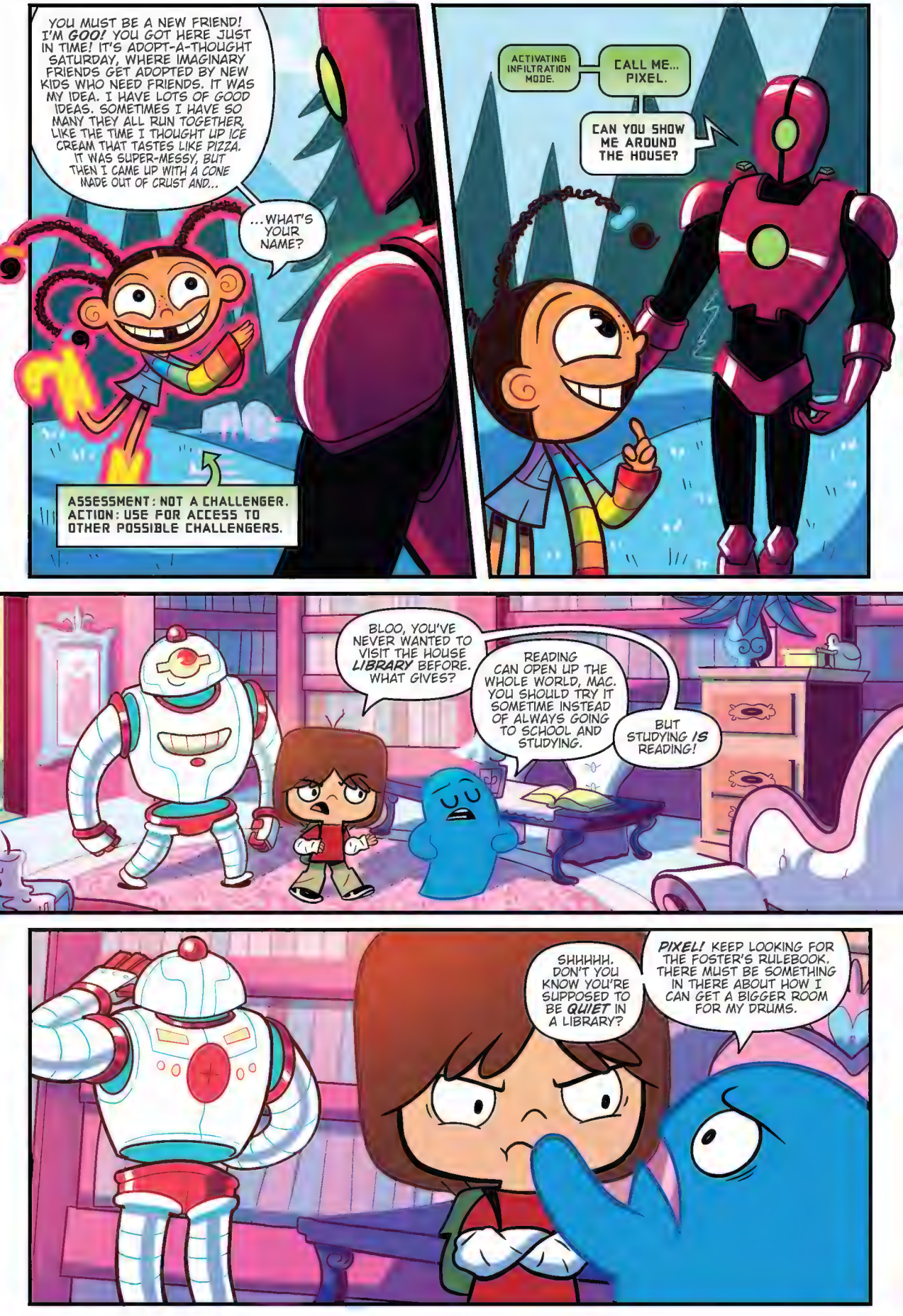

THIS IS PIXEL, OUR NEWEST FRIEND. PIXEL, THIS IS MAC. HE'LL BE SHOWING YOU AROUND THE HOUSE WHILE I HANDLE AN EMERGENCY.
HI! WOW, YOU'RE A ROBOT! COOL!
AHEM.
SIGHHH AND THIS IS BLOO. HE LIVES HERE. DON'T LISTEN TO HIM.
HELLO!

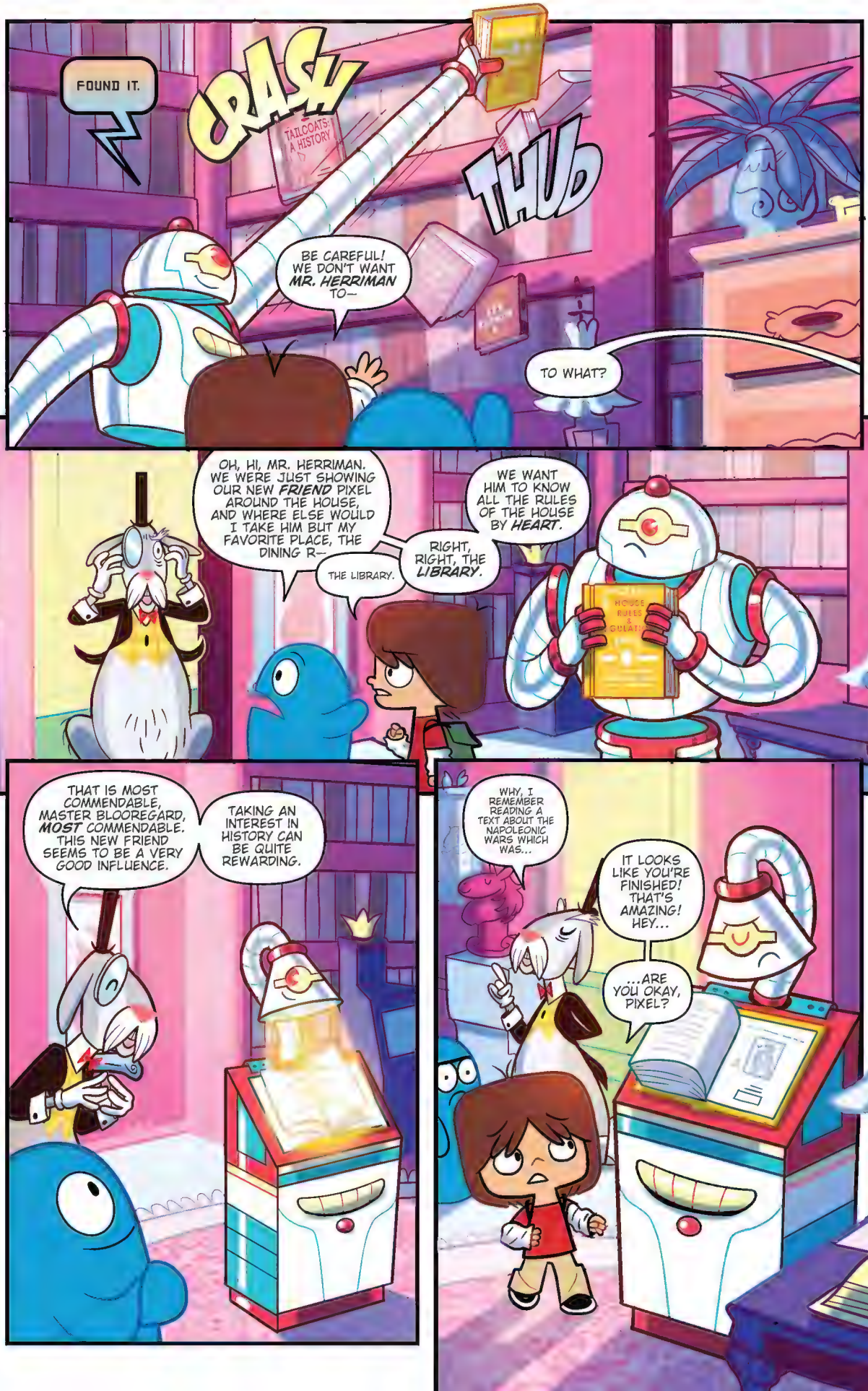
THUDA THUDA
WHAT'S THAT?
OH, MY DRYER LOAD MUST BE IN THE SPIN CYCLE.
DRYER LOAD? WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME... OOOOH!
BANG BANG BANG


PIXEL, I'LL SEE YOU LATER. REMEMBER, DON'T LISTEN TO BLOO!
OH, THAT FRANKIE. WHAT A KIDDER.
SO, UM, PIXEL... ANY CHANCE YOU'RE ONE OF THOSE ROBOTS THAT CAN... WELL... CHANGE INTO OTHER THINGS?
DO YOU MEAN...

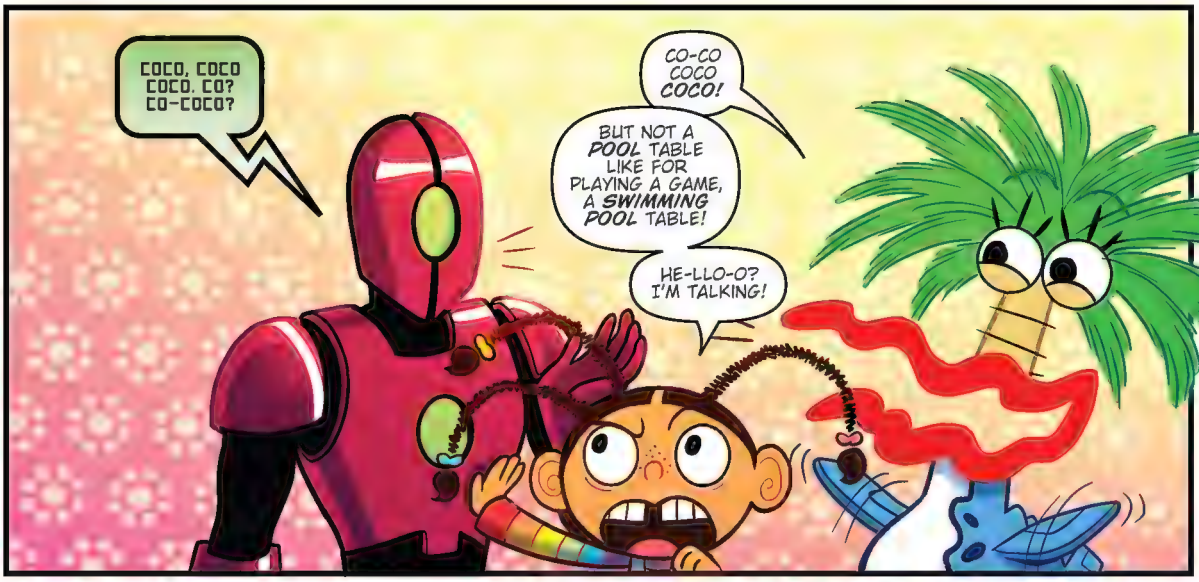
...LIKE THIS?
THAT'S PERFECT! STICK WITH ME, KID, AND...

"...YOU'LL FIT RIGHT IN."
SCANNING...
EDUARDO, THIS IS PIXEL. HE'S JUST MOVED INTO THE HOUSE.
HOLA, SEÑOR ROBOTO! IT IS GOOD TO MEET YOU!
SHOW HIM! SHOW HIM!
ASSESSMENT: POSSIBLE CHALLENGER. ACTION: INVESTIGATE FURTHER.
ASSESSMENT: NOT A CHALLENGER. ACTION: NONE NEEDED.
ASSESSMENT: NOT A CHALLENGER. ACTION: TRY TO IGNORE.
IT IS GOOD TO MEET YOU, EDUARDO.
IT IS LIKE LOOKING IN A MIRROR! OHHHH... I NEED TO LOSE SOME WEIGHT.
THANK YOU FOR BRINGING THIS TO MY ATTENTION, SHAPE-CHANGING ROBOT!
ASSESSMENT: POSSIBLE CHALLENGER. ACTION: USE CAUTION.
EXCUSE ME?
HELLO?

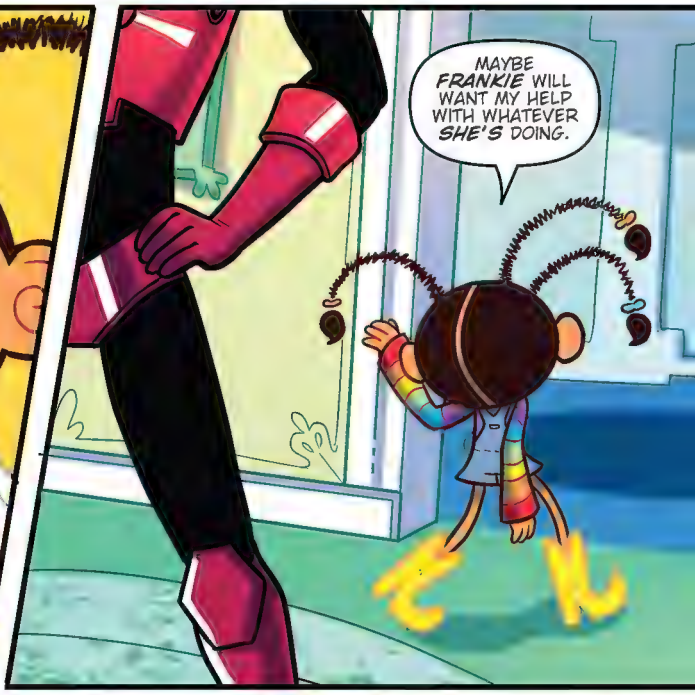

YOU MUST BE A NEW FRIEND! I'M GOO! YOU GOT HERE JUST IN TIME! IT'S ADOPT-A-THOUGHT SATURDAY, WHERE IMAGINARY FRIENDS GET ADOPTED BY NEW KIDS WHO NEED FRIENDS. IT WAS MY IDEA. I HAVE LOTS OF GOOD IDEAS. SOMETIMES I HAVE SO MANY THEY ALL RUN TOGETHER, LIKE THE TIME I THOUGHT UP ICE CREAM THAT TASTES LIKE PIZZA. IT WAS SUPER-MESSY, BUT THEN I CAME UP WITH A CONE MADE OUT OF CRUST AND...
...WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
ASSESSMENT: NOT A CHALLENGER. ACTION: USE FOR ACCESS TO OTHER POSSIBLE CHALLENGERS.
ACTIVATING INFILTRATION MODE.
CALL ME... PIXEL.
CAN YOU SHOW ME AROUND THE HOUSE?
BLOO, YOU'VE NEVER WANTED TO VISIT THE HOUSE LIBRARY BEFORE. WHAT GIVES?
READING CAN OPEN UP THE WHOLE WORLD, MAC. YOU SHOULD TRY IT SOMETIME INSTEAD OF ALWAYS GOING TO SCHOOL AND STUDYING.
BUT STUDYING IS READING!
SHHHHH. DON'T YOU KNOW YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE QUIET IN A LIBRARY?
PIXEL! KEEP LOOKING FOR THE FOSTER'S RULEBOOK. THERE MUST BE SOMETHING IN THERE ABOUT HOW I CAN GET A BIGGER ROOM FOR MY DRUMS.


FOUND IT.
CRASH
TAILCOATS: A HISTORY
THUD
BE CAREFUL! WE DON'T WANT MR. HERRIMAN TO—
TO WHAT?
OH, HI, MR. HERRIMAN. WE WERE JUST SHOWING OUR NEW FRIEND PIXEL AROUND THE HOUSE, AND WHERE ELSE WOULD I TAKE HIM BUT MY FAVORITE PLACE, THE DINING R—
THE LIBRARY.
RIGHT, RIGHT, THE LIBRARY.
WE WANT HIM TO KNOW ALL THE RULES OF THE HOUSE BY HEART.
HOUSE RULES & REGULATIONS
THAT IS MOST COMMENDABLE, MASTER BLOOREGARD, MOST COMMENDABLE. THIS NEW FRIEND SEEMS TO BE A VERY GOOD INFLUENCE.
TAKING AN INTEREST IN HISTORY CAN BE QUITE REWARDING.
WHY, I REMEMBER READING A TEXT ABOUT THE NAPOLEONIC WARS WHICH WAS...
IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE FINISHED! THAT'S AMAZING! HEY...
...ARE YOU OKAY, PIXEL?

A LOT OF NEW FRIENDS GET SAD WHEN THEY FIRST GET TO FOSTER'S.
I GUESS YOU MISS YOUR HUMAN, HUH?
HE OUTGREW ME, YES, BUT IT'S MORE THAN THAT...
... EVEN IN THIS HOUSE FULL OF SO MANY FRIENDS...
...THERE IS NO ONE HERE WHO IS TRULY LIKE ME.
HOUSE
MEANWHILE...
PIXEL, THIS IS COCO.
WE DON'T KNOW EXACTLY WHAT SHE'S SAYING, BUT SHE'S VERY NICE.
CO-CO? COCO!
THIS IS PIXEL! HE'S A NEW FRIEND!
I WAS JUST TELLING HIM ABOUT MY IDEA FOR A POOL TABLE.
ASSESSMENT: NOT A CHALLENGER. ACTION: ACTIVATE UNIVERSAL TRANSLATOR.


COCO, COCO COCO. CO? CO-COCO?
CO-CO COCO COCO!
BUT NOT A POOL TABLE LIKE FOR PLAYING A GAME, A SWIMMING POOL TABLE!
HE-LLO-O? I'M TALKING!

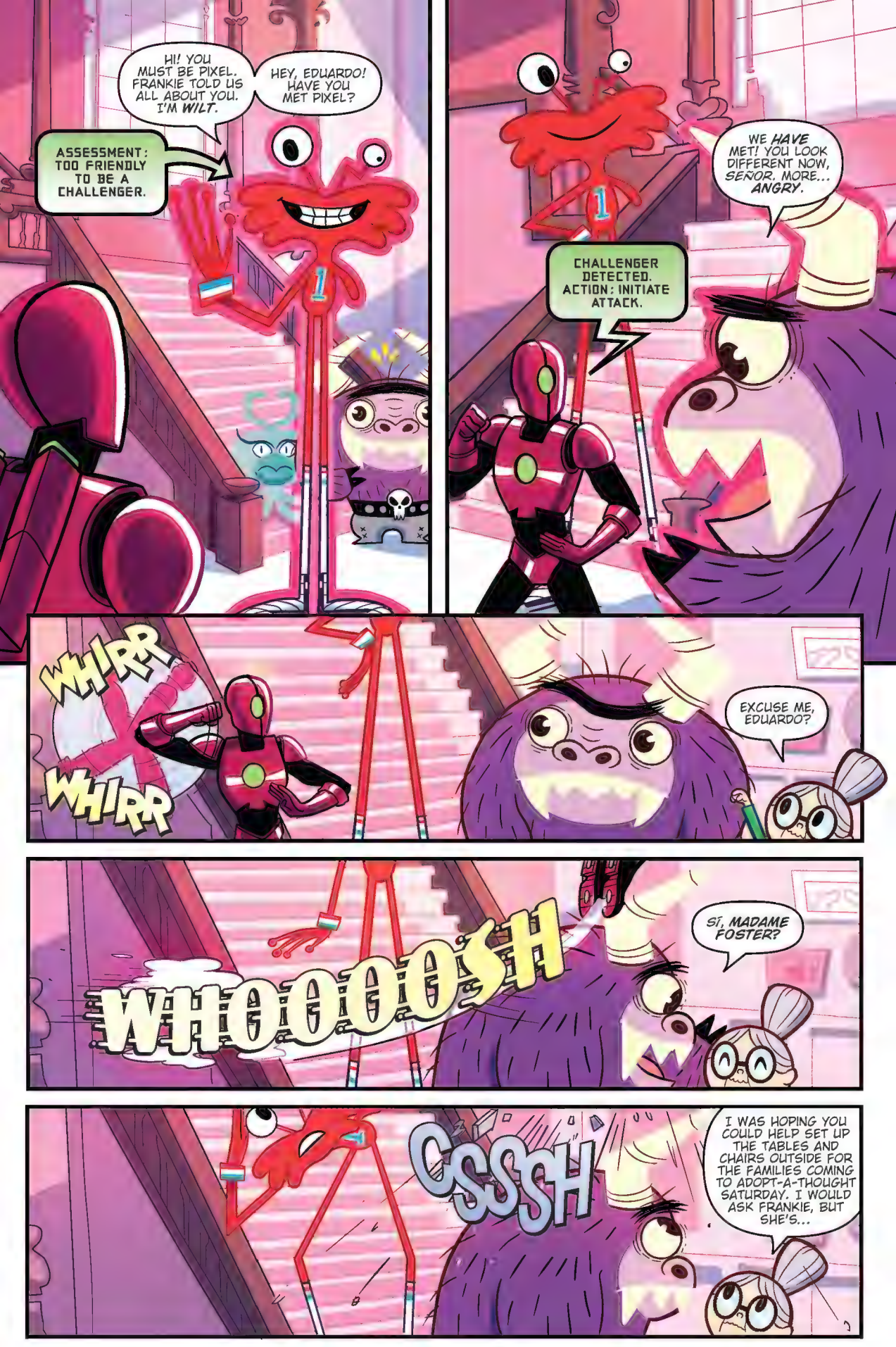
WHY ISN'T ANY ONE LISTENING TO ME????!??!


MAYBE FRANKIE WILL WANT MY HELP WITH WHATEVER SHE'S DOING.

HI, GOO! NO TIME TO TALK! LAUNDRY ROOM EXPLOSION! BLOO'S FAULT! GOTTA GO!
ONE-TWO-THREE-FOUR!

MAC!
MAC!
THE BLOO NOTES
MAC!
HEY, GOO. WHAT DO YOU THINK OF OUR NEW BAND?
UM, IT'S... UM... WELL... THE THING IS... UM...
I LIKE THE NAME!
SORRY, GOO. NO TIME FOR AUTOGRAPHS. WE NEED TO REHEARSE.
BUT I JUST WANTED TO TELL YOU ABOUT THIS NEW FRIEND WHO WAS SO RUDE TO ME AND WOULDN'T LISTEN TO MY—
THAT REMINDS ME! YOU HAVEN'T MET OUR NEW FRIEND. GOO...

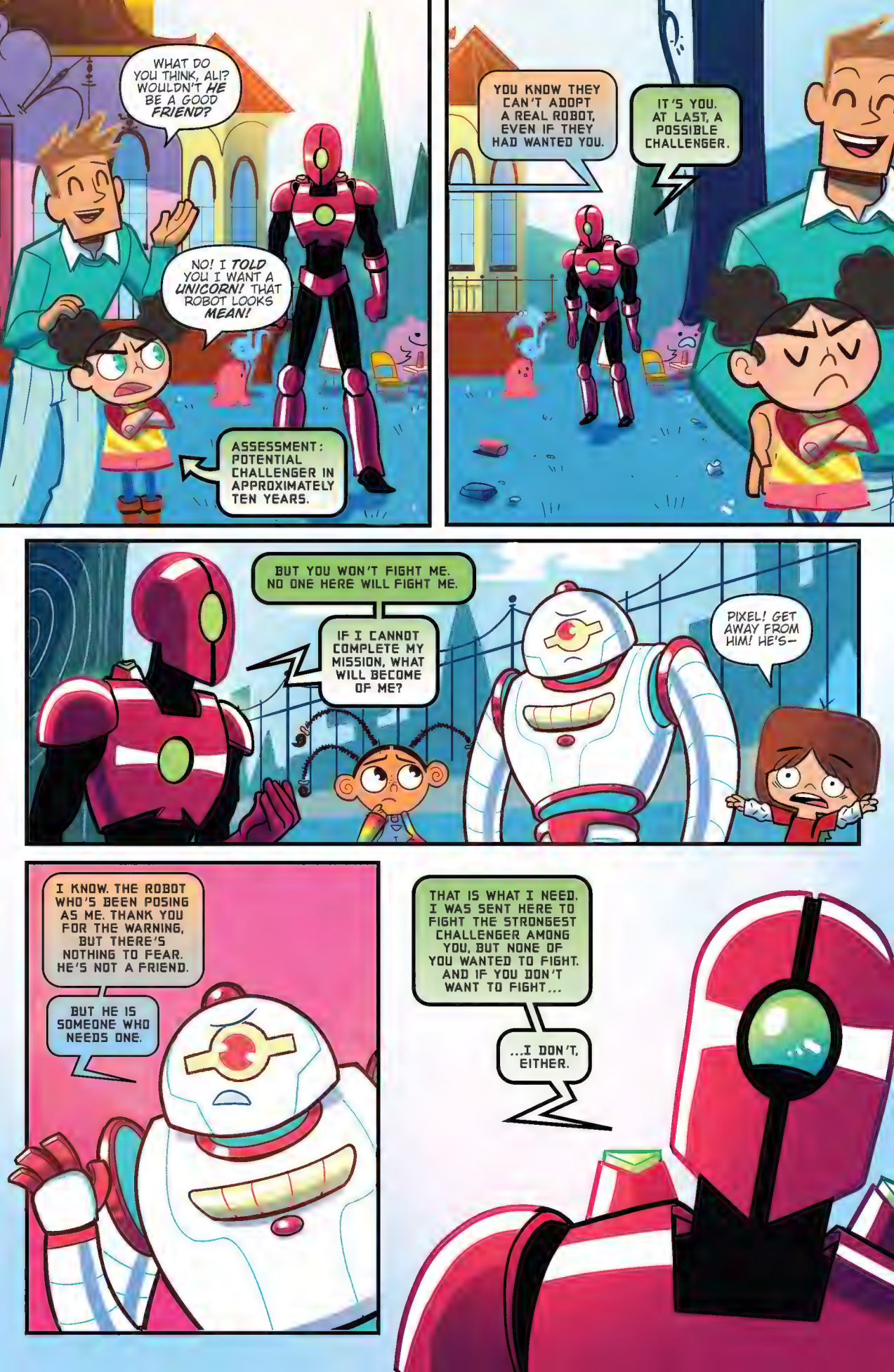
...MEET PIXEL.
OH! IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU, PIX...
...WAIT A SECOND. I LEFT YOU DOWNSTAIRS WITH COCO! AND WHY ARE YOU IN DISGUISE?
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO ANSWER THAT, MS. GOO.
I BET YOU DON'T. I'M GOING TO GO HELP WITH THE ADOPT-A-THOUGHT PARTY. WITH YOUR MANNERS, YOU SHOULDN'T BOTHER GOING AT ALL!
AND BLOO, YOUR DRUMMING IS TERRIBLE!
SLAM
SEE, MAC? IT'S JUST LIKE I'VE BEEN SAYING...
...YOU REALLY NEED TO PRACTICE.


HI! YOU MUST BE PIXEL. FRANKIE TOLD US ALL ABOUT YOU. I'M WILT.
HEY, EDUARDO! HAVE YOU MET PIXEL?
ASSESSMENT: TOO FRIENDLY TO BE A CHALLENGER.
WE HAVE MET! YOU LOOK DIFFERENT NOW, SEÑOR. MORE... ANGRY.
CHALLENGER DETECTED. ACTION: INITIATE ATTACK.
WHIRR
WHIRR
EXCUSE ME, EDUARDO?
WHOOOOOSH
SÍ, MADAME FOSTER?
CSSSH
I WAS HOPING YOU COULD HELP SET UP THE TABLES AND CHAIRS OUTSIDE FOR THE FAMILIES COMING TO ADOPT-A-THOUGHT SATURDAY. I WOULD ASK FRANKIE, BUT SHE'S...

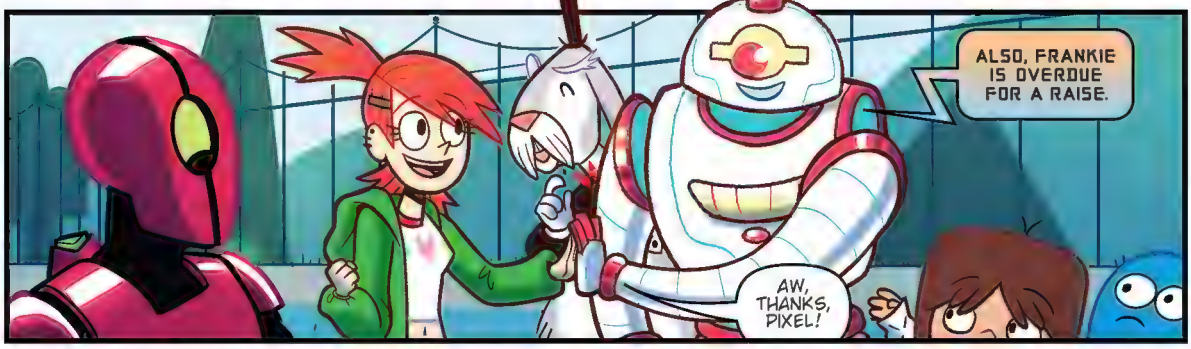
"...BUSY."
NOT BAD, IF I DO SAY SO *MYSELF*. YOU'D NEVER EVEN KNOW THERE HAD EVER BEEN A HO—
WHAMMM
OH, COME *ON!*
FRANKIE, WHEN YOU HAVE A MOMENT...
WHAMMM
...I THINK WE'LL NEED A BIT OF *PLASTER* UP HERE.
AND A *ROOFER* AS WELL.
SHOOOOOOOO

FAMILIES ARE GOING TO START SHOWING UP SOON, SO WE'D BETTER GET THINGS SET UP.
I AGREE, BUT FIRST WE MUST GET THE TRASH OUT OF THE WAY.
BA-SQUOOSH
GRACIAS, SEÑOR PIXEL, THANK YOU FOR REMOVING THE TRASH! NOW WE CAN SET UP FOR THE FAMILIES IN NO TIME!
BUT WE CAN'T LET YOU GO JUST YET.
CHALLENGER HAS REEMERGED WITH ALLY. ACTIVATE DEFENSE MODE AND COMPLETE MISSION.
THAT'S RIGHT! NOT UNTIL WE CLEAN YOU UP!
NOW YOU WILL LOOK MUY GUAPO FOR ADOPT-A-THOUGHT!
ASSESSMENT: NO CHALLENGER PRESENT. ACTION: REEVALUATE MISSION.
IF NO ONE WILL CHALLENGE ME, MISSION CANNOT BE COMPLETED.

ADOPT-A-THOUGHT
Saturday
GOO! WAIT UP!
WHAT IS IT, MAC? AND DON'T TRY TO APOLOGIZE FOR YOUR ROBOT FRIEND.
BUT THAT'S JUST IT: PIXEL'S BEEN WITH ME AND BLOO ALL DAY, SO HE COULDN'T HAVE BEEN THE ONE WHO WAS RUDE TO YOU.
THEN WHO WAS IT?
HOUSE OF BLOO
THAT ROBOT WAS SCARY LOOKING!
I WANNA GO HOME!
HONESTLY, WHO WOULD MAKE A MONSTER LIKE THAT THEIR FRIEND?
SO THERE MUST BE...
ANOTHER ROBOT! LET'S GET THE REAL PIXEL AND GO TRACK DOWN THE FAKE ONE!


WHAT DO YOU THINK, ALI? WOULDN'T HE BE A GOOD FRIEND?
NO! I TOLD YOU I WANT A UNICORN! THAT ROBOT LOOKS MEAN!
ASSESSMENT: POTENTIAL CHALLENGER IN APPROXIMATELY TEN YEARS.
YOU KNOW THEY CAN'T ADOPT A REAL ROBOT, EVEN IF THEY HAD WANTED YOU.
IT'S YOU. AT LAST, A POSSIBLE CHALLENGER.
BUT YOU WON'T FIGHT ME. NO ONE HERE WILL FIGHT ME.
IF I CANNOT COMPLETE MY MISSION, WHAT WILL BECOME OF ME?
PIXEL! GET AWAY FROM HIM! HE'S—
I KNOW. THE ROBOT WHO'S BEEN POSING AS ME. THANK YOU FOR THE WARNING, BUT THERE'S NOTHING TO FEAR. HE'S NOT A FRIEND.
BUT HE IS SOMEONE WHO NEEDS ONE.
THAT IS WHAT I NEED. I WAS SENT HERE TO FIGHT THE STRONGEST CHALLENGER AMONG YOU, BUT NONE OF YOU WANTED TO FIGHT. AND IF YOU DON'T WANT TO FIGHT...
...I DON'T, EITHER.

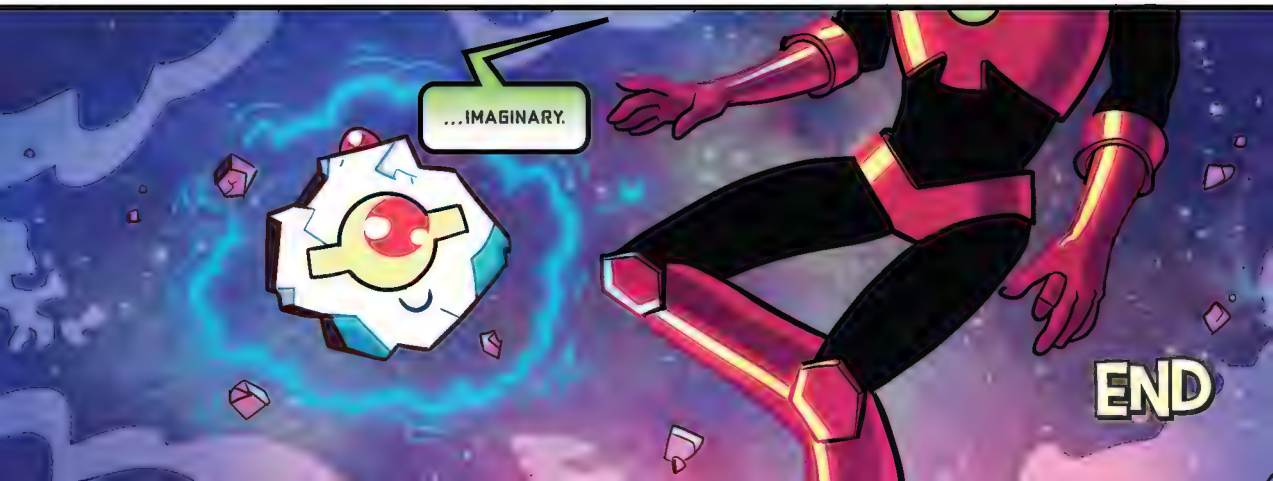
I HAVE TO GO HOME AND FIND A WAY TO KEEP FROM GETTING IN TROUBLE FOR FAILING TO COMPLETE MY MISSION.
IT WOULD BE EASIER IF I HAD A FRIEND WITH ME.
I'D BE HONORED.
GOD, I WANT YOU TO KNOW... YOU WERE THE FIRST PERSON WHO WAS EVER NICE TO ME.
I'M SORRY I MADE YOU MAD BEFORE. I'LL ALWAYS BE YOUR FRIEND.
SNIFFLE I... I...
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY!
I'M VERY SORRY, BUT I'M AFRAID PIXEL CANNOT GO WITH 3XL. THE RULES SAY A FRIEND SIMPLY CANNOT BE GIVEN TO A NON-HUMAN.
NO.
I HAVE MEMORIZED ALL OF FOSTER'S' RULES AND HISTORY, AND THERE IS NOTHING TO SUGGEST THAT ONLY HUMANS CAN HAVE FRIENDS.
AS LONG AS SOMEONE WANTS A FRIEND, THEY CAN HAVE ONE, HUMAN OR NOT.


ALSO, FRANKIE IS OVERDUE FOR A RAISE.
AW, THANKS, PIXEL!

I'M REALLY GLAD YOU FOUND SOMEONE TO BE FRIENDS WITH, PIXEL.
ME TOO, I GUESS, BUT I REALLY WANTED THE BAND TO ROCK!
BUT DIDN'T YOU PLAY BADLY ON PURPOSE SO NO ONE WOULD ADOPT YOU?

SHUT UP SHUT UP SHUT UP...
WHAT? NO! I GUESS ROBOTS JUST DON'T GET FRESH BEATS. HAVE FUN ON PLANET TONE-DEAF!

UNIT 3XL RETURNING FROM EXPLORATION OF DIMENSION TK-1. ASSESSMENT: NO CHALLENGERS WORTHY OF EVALUATION FOUND.
ACTION: REPORT THAT ANY THREATS ON THAT EARTH ARE COMPLETELY...


...IMAGINARY.
END

Cover Art by: Ethen Beavers

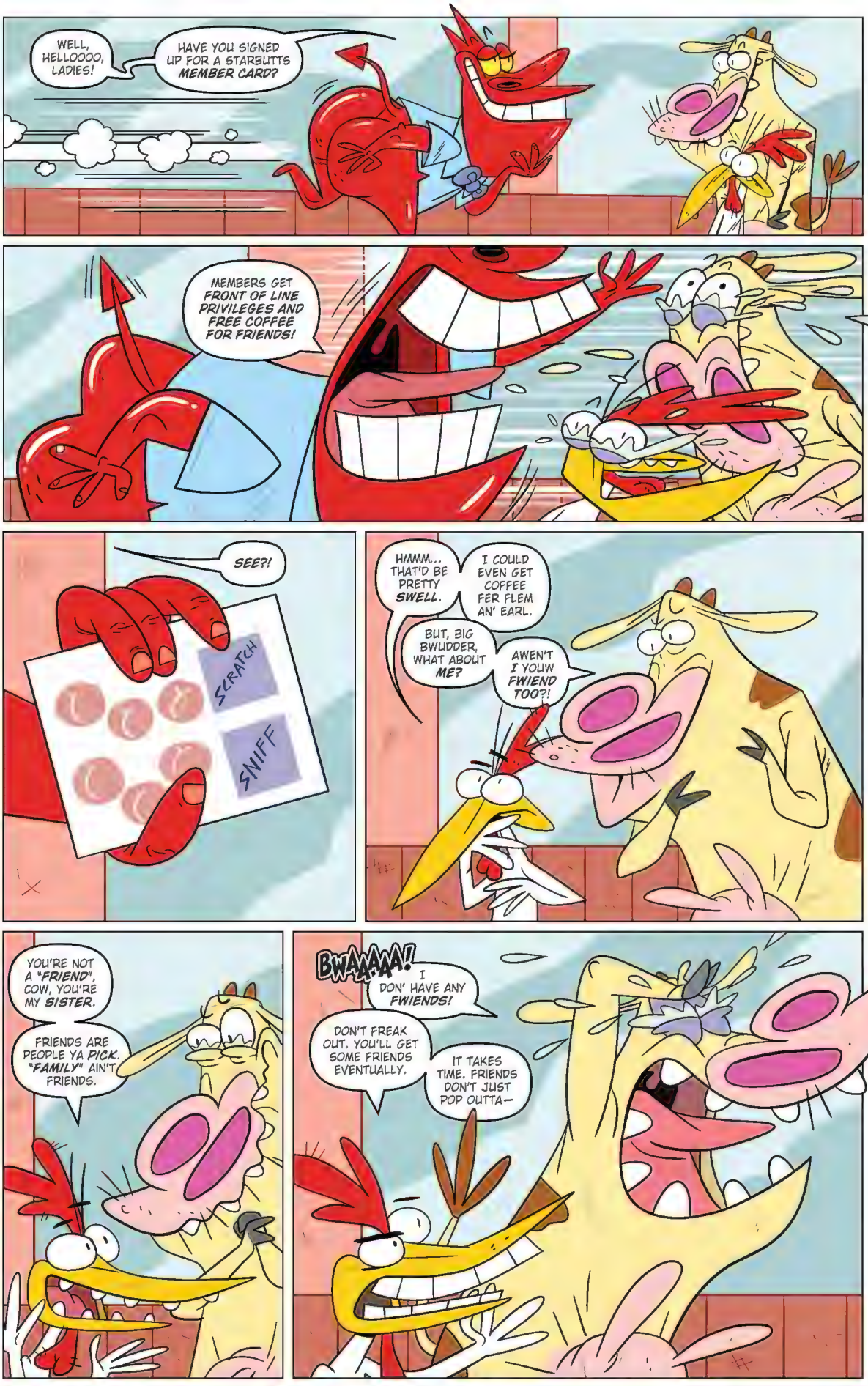
Chapter 4

Written by Jim Zub Art by Jorge Monlongo

Cover Art by: Jorge Monlongo

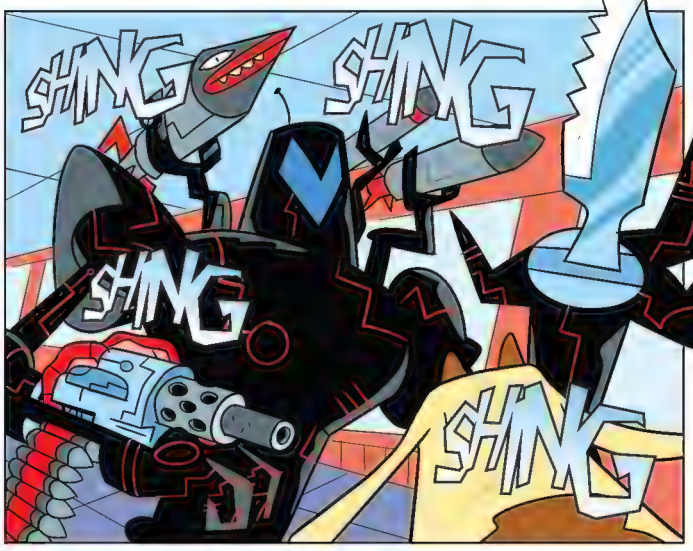
Momma had a chicken
Momma had a cow
Dad was proud
He didn't care how
Cow
Chicken
Cow and Chicken
Cow and Chicken
SUMMAHTIME, IT'S SUMMAHTIME!
MY FAVOWITE TIME O' YEAW!
GROAN
ROBO-FAMILY-FRIENDSHIP

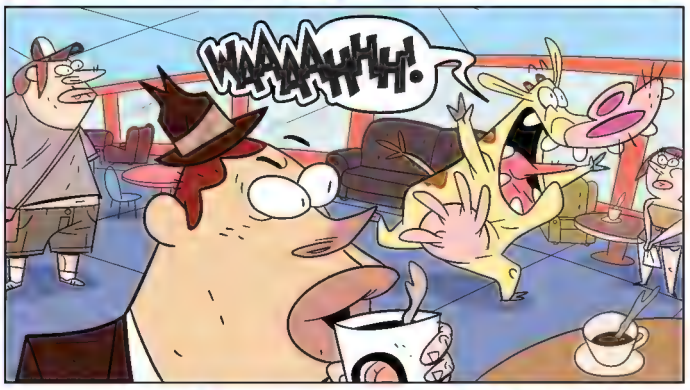
SEE DIS?
DIS IS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I DON'T GET 'NUFF SLEEP!
I'M SOWWY, CHICKEN. I DIDN'T MEAN TO WAKE YOU UP SO EAWWY.
BUT I JUST CAN'T HEWP IT!
I WUV SUMMAHTIME SOOOOO MUCH!
YEAH, YEAH, I KNOW.
I JUST NEED A MORNIN' JAVA TO GET MY BRAIN BOX GOIN'.
STARBUTTS COFFEE
AWEN'T YOU TOO YOUNG TO DWINK COFFEE?
WHAT? NO!
BESIDES, BY THE TIME I GET TO TH' FRONT I'LL BE OLD 'NUFF TO VOTE.
OH...


WELL, HELLOOOO, LADIES!
HAVE YOU SIGNED UP FOR A STARBUTTS MEMBER CARD?
MEMBERS GET FRONT OF LINE PRIVILEGES AND FREE COFFEE FOR FRIENDS!
SEE?!
SCRATCH
SNIFF
HMMM... THAT'D BE PRETTY SWELL.
I COULD EVEN GET COFFEE FER FLEM AN' EARL.
BUT, BIG BWUDDER, WHAT ABOUT ME?
AWEN'T I YOUW FWIEND TOO?!
YOU'RE NOT A "FRIEND", COW, YOU'RE MY SISTER.
FRIENDS ARE PEOPLE YA PICK. "FAMILY" AIN'T FRIENDS.
BWAAAAA!!
I DON' HAVE ANY FWIENDS!
DON'T FREAK OUT. YOU'LL GET SOME FRIENDS EVENTUALLY.
IT TAKES TIME. FRIENDS DON'T JUST POP OUTTA—

FWOOSH!
—THIN AIR.
WARP COMPLETE.
UUURRR—
AAAAH!
AAAAH!
CRUSH!
SEARCHING FOR CHALLENGER...

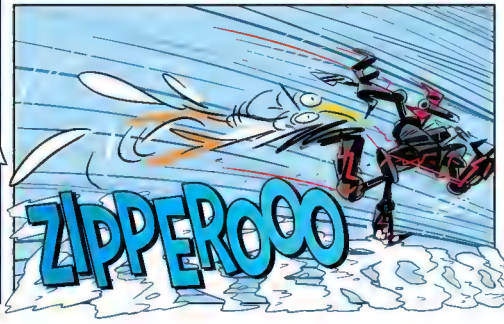
CHALLENGE ACCEPTED.


SHING
SHING
SHING
SHING


WAAAAHHH!

HEY, PAL!
DON'T YOU GO SCARIN' MY—

—SISTER?


ZIPPEROOO

HEWD ME!
HEAD BUTT!!!
TARGET —
UH—
JUST WANNA COFFEE...
KERAAA
HI-YA!

I GUESS THAT'S WHY THEY CALL IT THE MORNING CRUSH, HMMM?
POP!
TAH DAH!
UUUUHH–
HELLO! CAN WE BE FWIENDS?!
NOT 'TIL YOU CLEAN UP THIS MESS, HONEY.
"CLEANLINESS" IS NEXT TO "FRIENDLINESS" IN MY BOOK.
WHY'S EVEWYONE SO MEAN!
I JUST WANNA PICK A FWIEND!
ZZZT-CAFFEINE CIRCUIT COLLISION-
ZZT-MAL-FUNC-TION-ZZT-ZZT-ZZT
ZZZZZT-FWIENDS
RRRUMBLE!!
AW GEEZ, WHAT NOW?!

ZZT—I AM FWIEND!
YOU AWE?!
ZZZT-HAPPY-ZZZT-GLEE
CWUSHING EMBWACE OF FWIENDSHIP
THIS IS AWW I EVEW WANTED!
BEST FWIENDS FOWEVAH!!

YOU LIVE WITH THIS EVERY DAY?
EVERY DAY...
ZZZT-ZZZT
—FWIEND FWIENDFWIEND FWIENDFWIEND—
DON'T WOWWY, BEST FWIEND...
...NOTHING WIWW COME BETWEEN US.
DON'T WORRY, SHE GETS BORED QUICK.
BY TOMORROW, SHE'LL BE NUTS 'BOUT SUMTHIN' ELSE...
THE NEXT MORNING!
MOMMA, DADDY!
COME MEET MY BEST FWIEND!
GRUMBLE, MUMBLE, RAZZER-FRAZZIN'

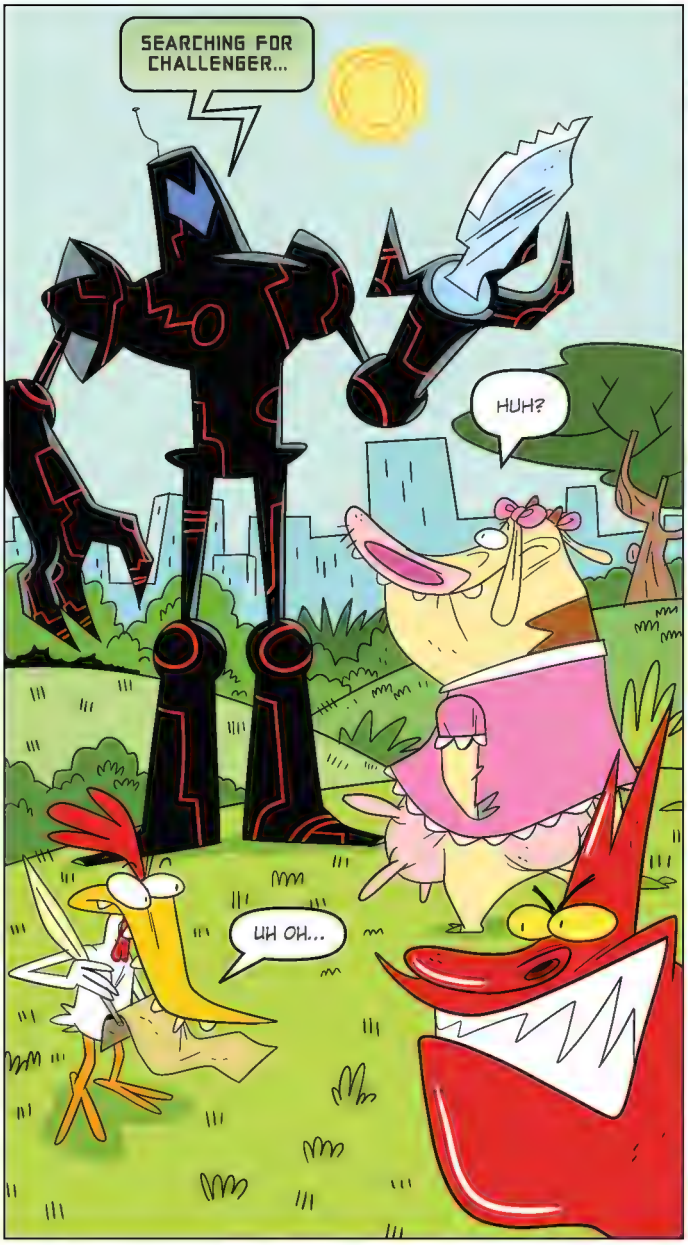
OH FATHER, LOOK! OUR LITTLE COW IS BUILDING HER SOCIAL SKILLS!
THEY GROW UP SO FAST, DON'T THEY?
SIGH!
IT'S NOT EVEN A REAL PERSON OR NUTHIN'!
CHICKEN, YOU NEED TO SUPPORT YOUR SISTER, ENCOURAGE HER. THAT'S WHAT GOOD FAMILIES DO.
YEAH, BUT—
NO BUTS!
BUTTS ARE FOR BARBEQUING AND EATING ON A STICK!
WHY'S CHICKEN AWW MAD?
HE'S YOUR BROTHER, COW DEAR. SOMETIMES BOYS GET FRUSTRATED AND WE NEED TO BE EXTRA PATIENT WITH THEM.
OKAY...
IT'S A BEAUTIFUL SUMMER DAY, SO WHY DON'T YOU TWO GO OUTSIDE AND GET SOME SUN?
ZZZT-O-K—
SUMMAHTIME WITH MY NEW BESTEST FWIEND!
ZZZT— SUMMER— ZZT

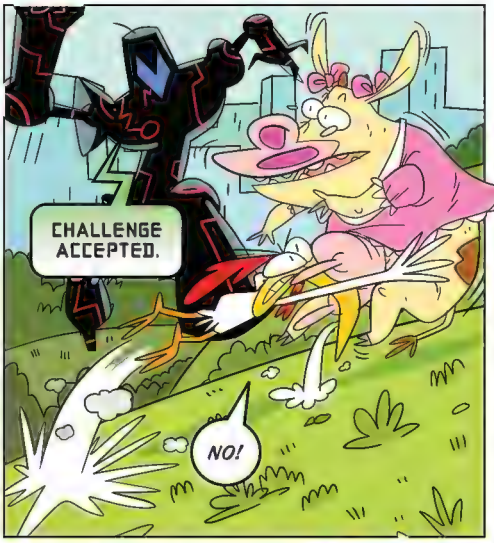
HEY, EVEWYBODY!
MY FWIEND AND I ARE HEWE TO PWAY WITH YOU!
ZZZT-GREETINGS, CHALLENGERS-ZZZZT
AAAAAHHH!
ZZZT-QUERY?-ZZZT
OH NO!
THEY WEWE SO CWUEL!

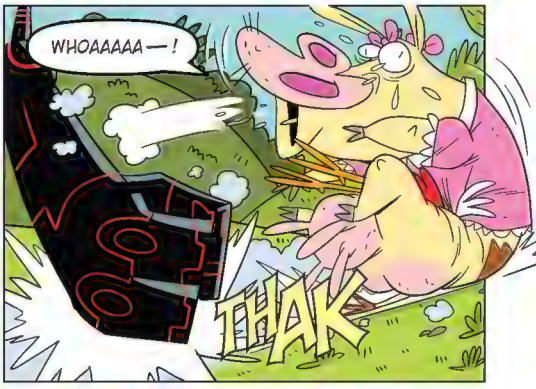
THEY'WW NEVEW UNDEWSTAND YOU THE WAY I DO!
NEVEW! NEVEW!
THIS IS THE DUMBEST...
ZZZT-DAMAGE SUSTAINED-ZZZT
I KNOW!
WIFE IS SO DAMAGING!
...DAMN...
YOU RANG?
POOF
WAAAHH!
SIBLING RIVALRY?
I JUST DON'T GET WHY SHE'S ALL LOVEY-DOVEY FOR A DUMB OL' ROBOT!
I SEE...

HER MILK-STAINED HEART IS NO MATCH FOR THAT MACHINE'S COLD HARD STEEL!
IF ONLY THERE WAS SOME WAY TO SAVE HER!
YEAH, THAT'D BE NICE...
I, Chicken, do hereby agree to an endless lifetime of employment and relinquish ownership of my house, everything I own (especially underpants), and all of my teeth, including those currently in my mouth or grown at a future date.
BOOYAH!
I AM THE PROBLEM SOLVER!
SIGN THIS LITTLE AGREEMENT AND I'LL TAKE CARE OF THAT METAL MENACE.
I, Chicken, do hereby agree to an endless lifetime of employment and relinquish ownership of my house, everything I own (especially underpants), and all of my teeth, including those currently in my mouth or grown at a future date.
SHLOOP
SEEMS... REASONABLE.
SIMPLE, RIGHT?
SIGN!

GULP
WHY CAN'T FOWKS JUDGE US FOW WHO WE WEALLY AWE?!
TICK-TOCK, LIMITED TIME OFFER!
SIZZLE
SIZZLE
ZZZT-
FINE! LET'S DO DIS!
SIZZLE
CIRCUITS DRY.
SYSTEM BACK ONLINE.
ANY TIME NOW...
future day

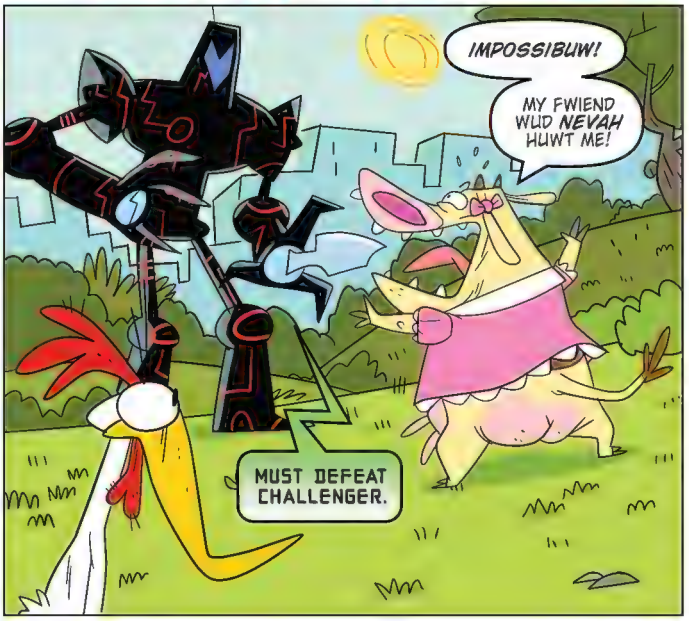

SEARCHING FOR CHALLENGER...
HUH?
UH OH...


CHALLENGE ACCEPTED.
NO!

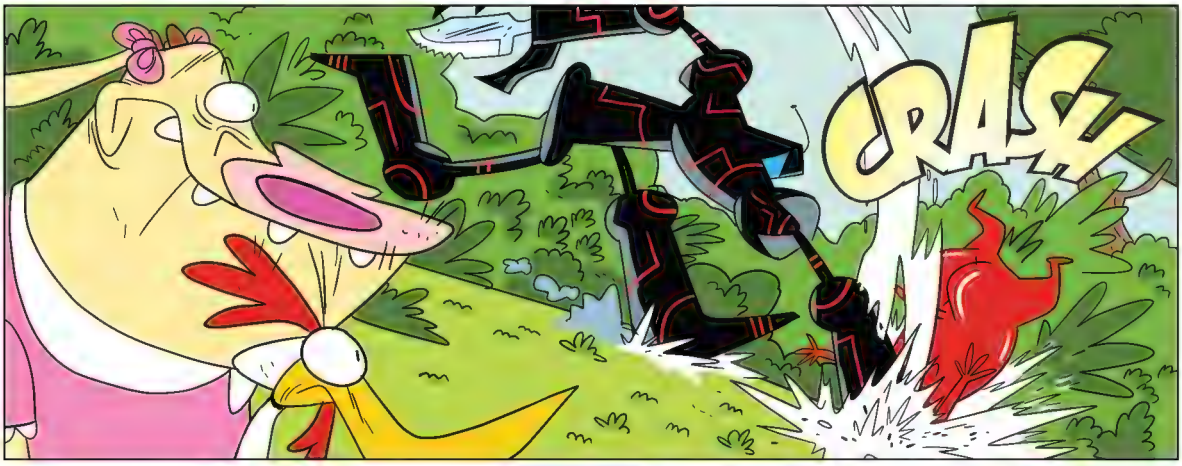

WHOAAAAA—!
THAK

SERIOUSLY?!
YOU COULDN'T WAIT 5 MORE SECONDS?!

BIG BRUDDER, WHY DID YOU DO THAT?!
'CAUSE IT'S NOT YOUR FRIEND!
IT'S TRYIN' TA KILL YOU!

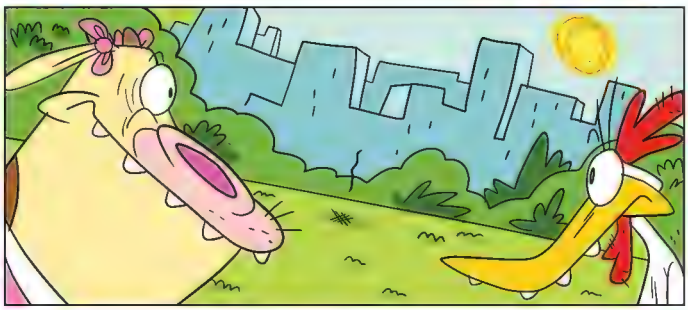

IMPOSSIBUW!
MY FWIEND WUD NEVAH HUWT ME!
MUST DEFEAT CHALLENGER.

SLICE!
NOW HOLD ON JUST A CHARBROILED MINUTE HERE—
POOF!


CRASH!

DEFEATED.
ENGAGE WARP PROTOCOL.
WHA—

WHSH!



WAAAAAAAAH!
MY FWIEND IS GONE!
GONE GONE GONE GONE!
NEVAH TO WETUWN!
AW GEEZ...

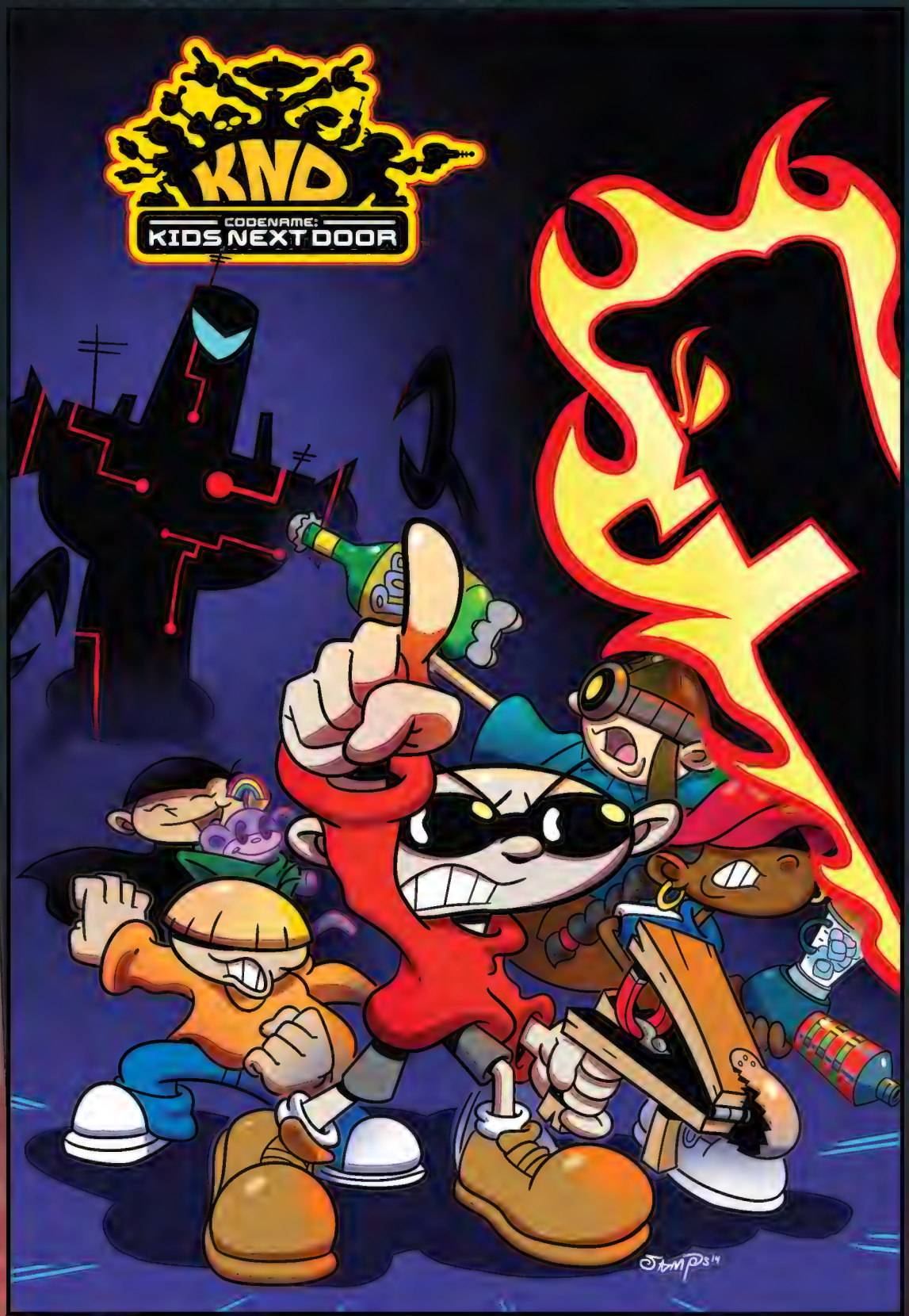
ENOUGH ALREADY!
I'LL BE YER FRIEND, OKAY?!
FOW WEAL?
BUT I THOUGHT YOU SAID "FAMIWY AIN'T FWIENDS"?
YEAH, WELL, I CHANGED MY MIND.
SO, DO YA WANNA BE FRIENDS NOW OR WHAT?
UH... IS THATTA "YES?"
SIBWING WOVE

SUMMAHTIME, SUMMAHTIME! MY FAVOWITE TIME O' YEAW!
GOOD THING I'VE GOT SOME HOCUS-POCUS OF MY OWN OR THAT TIN-CAN TERMINATOR WOULD'VE ROASTED MY BUTTCHINSKI WORSE THAN A STARBUTTS QUATRO-MOCHA-LATTE...
...YOU, UH, WOULDN'T HAPPEN TO HAVE A GOOD REFERRAL ON A HEAD TRAUMA SPECIALIST, WOULDJA?
POOF
END

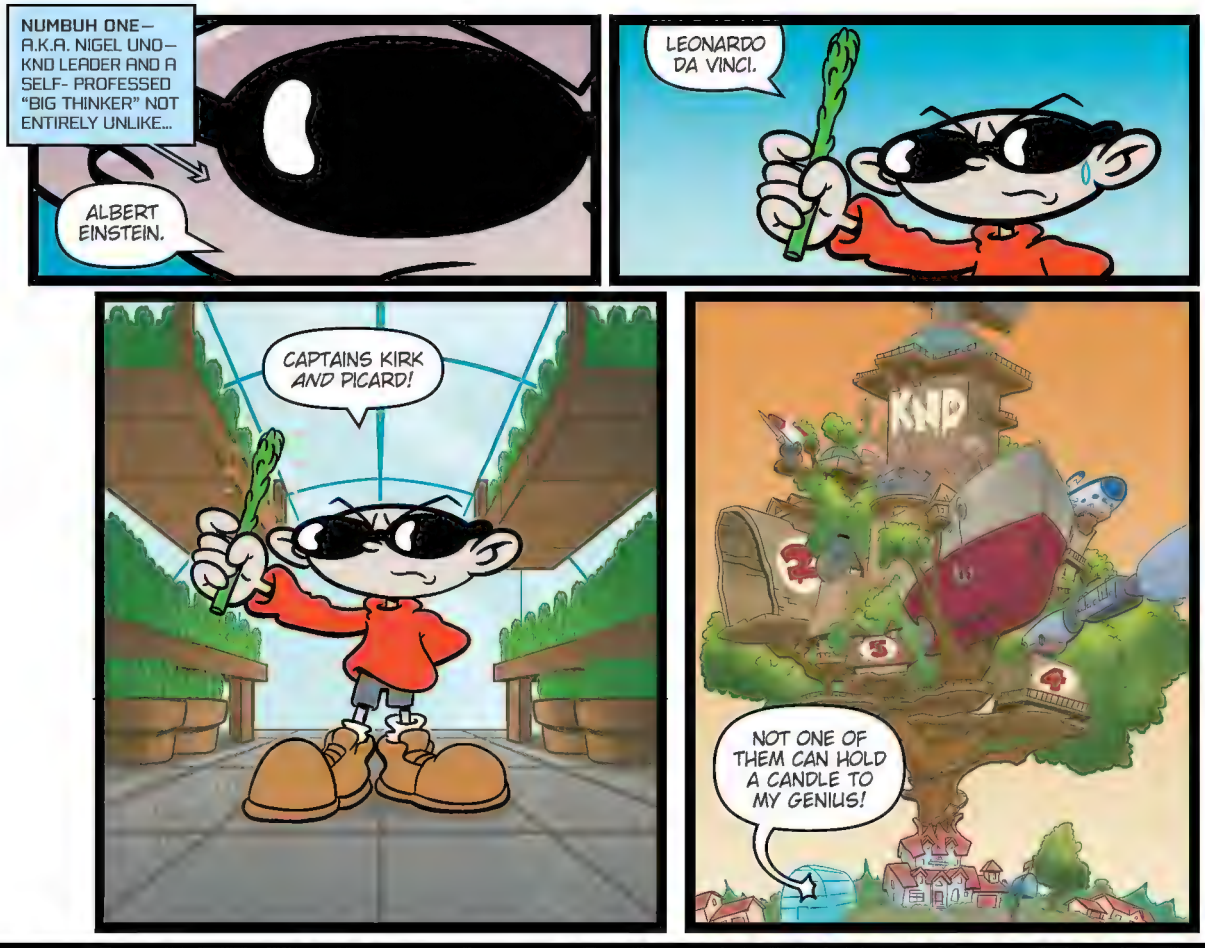
Cover Art by: Ethen Beavers

Chapter 5

Written by Scott Peterson Art by Ryan Jampole



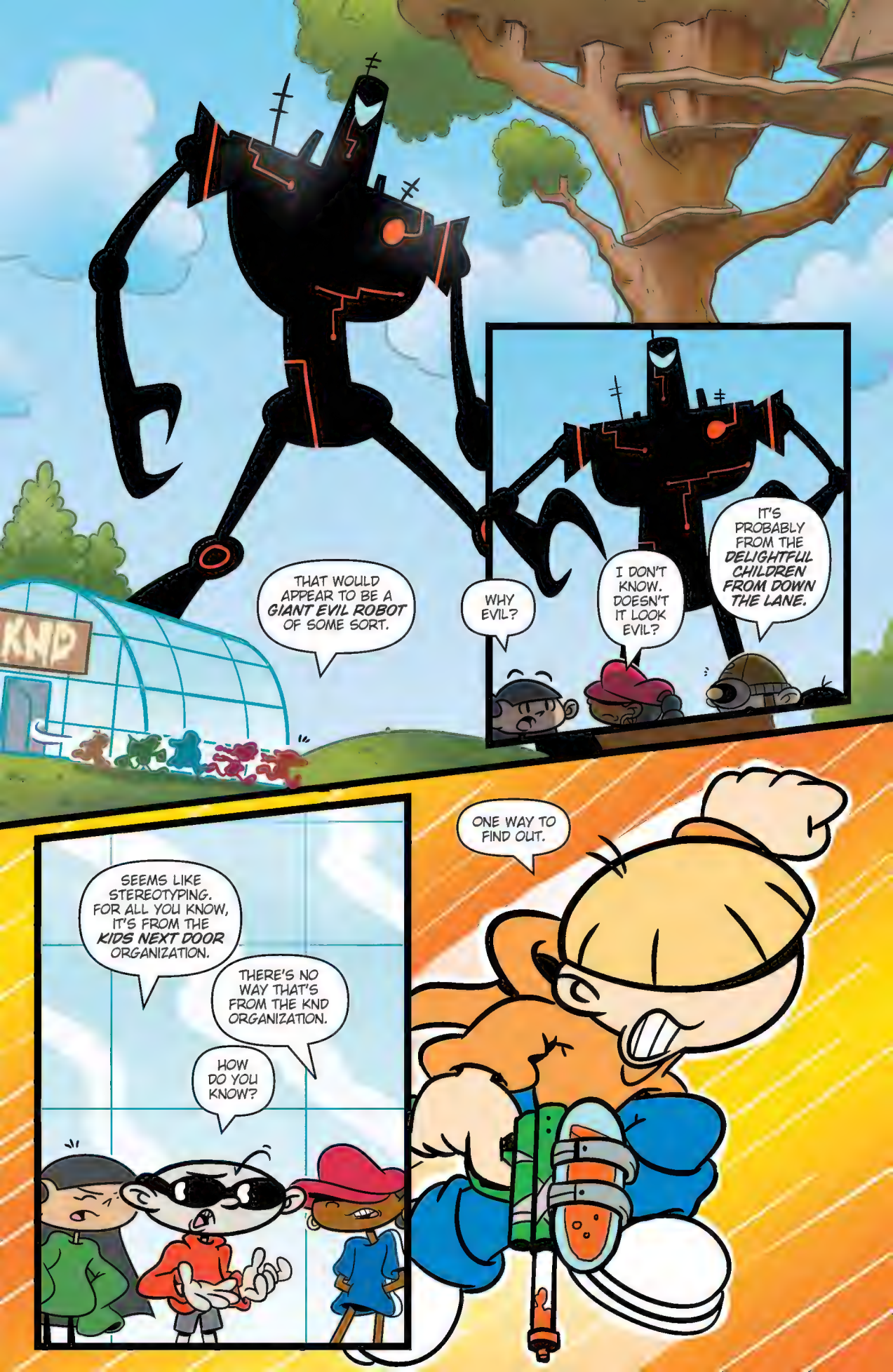
Cover Art by: Ryan Jampole

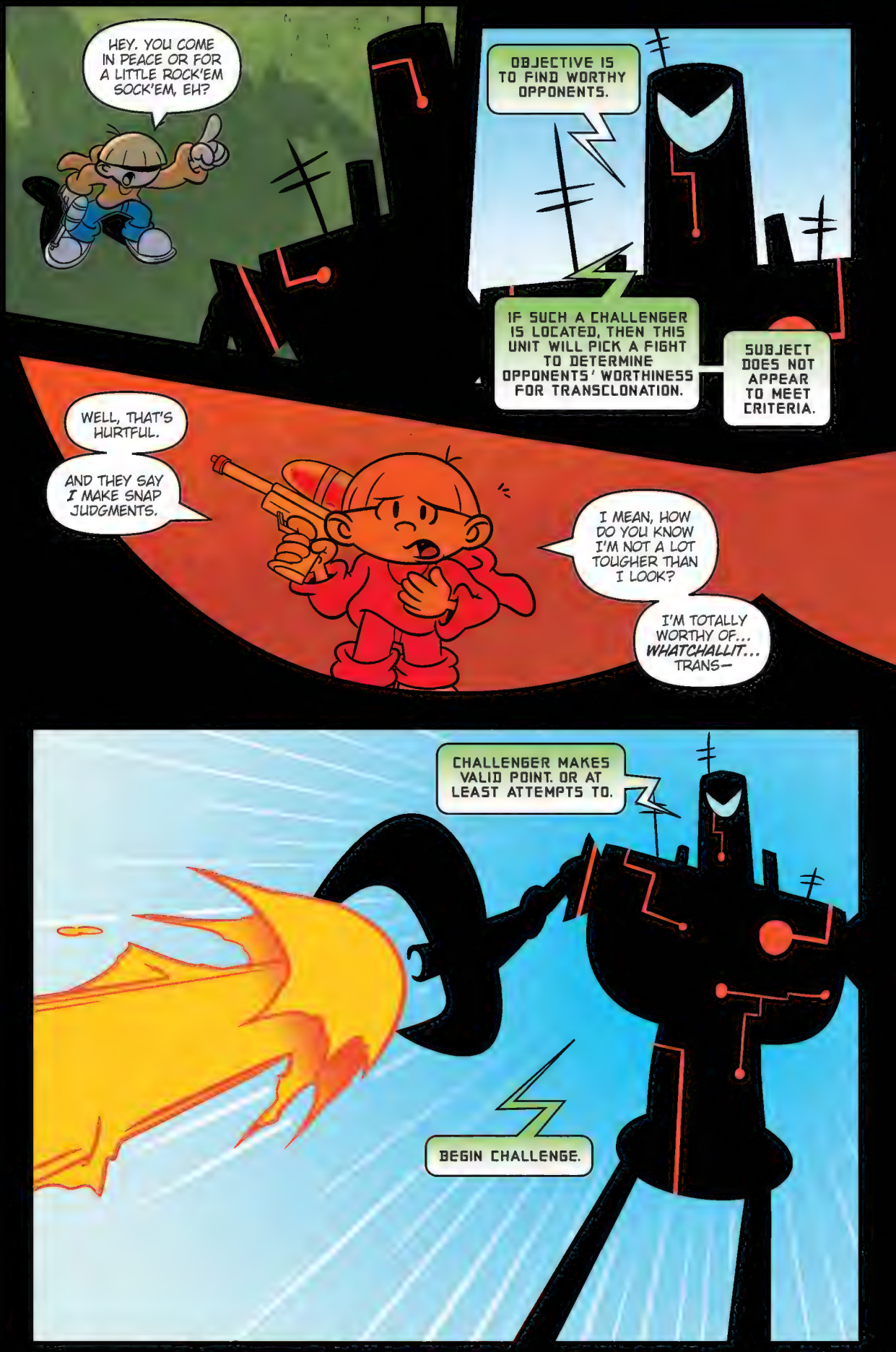

NUMBUH ONE— A.K.A. NIGEL UNO— KND LEADER AND A SELF- PROFESSED "BIG THINKER" NOT ENTIRELY UNLIKE...
ALBERT EINSTEIN.
LEONARDO DA VINCI.
CAPTAINS KIRK AND PICARD!
KND
2
3
4
NOT ONE OF THEM CAN HOLD A CANDLE TO MY GENIUS!

now loading:
kids next door mission

operation:
r.o.b.o.t.s.
(really obnoxious badguys out to slay)

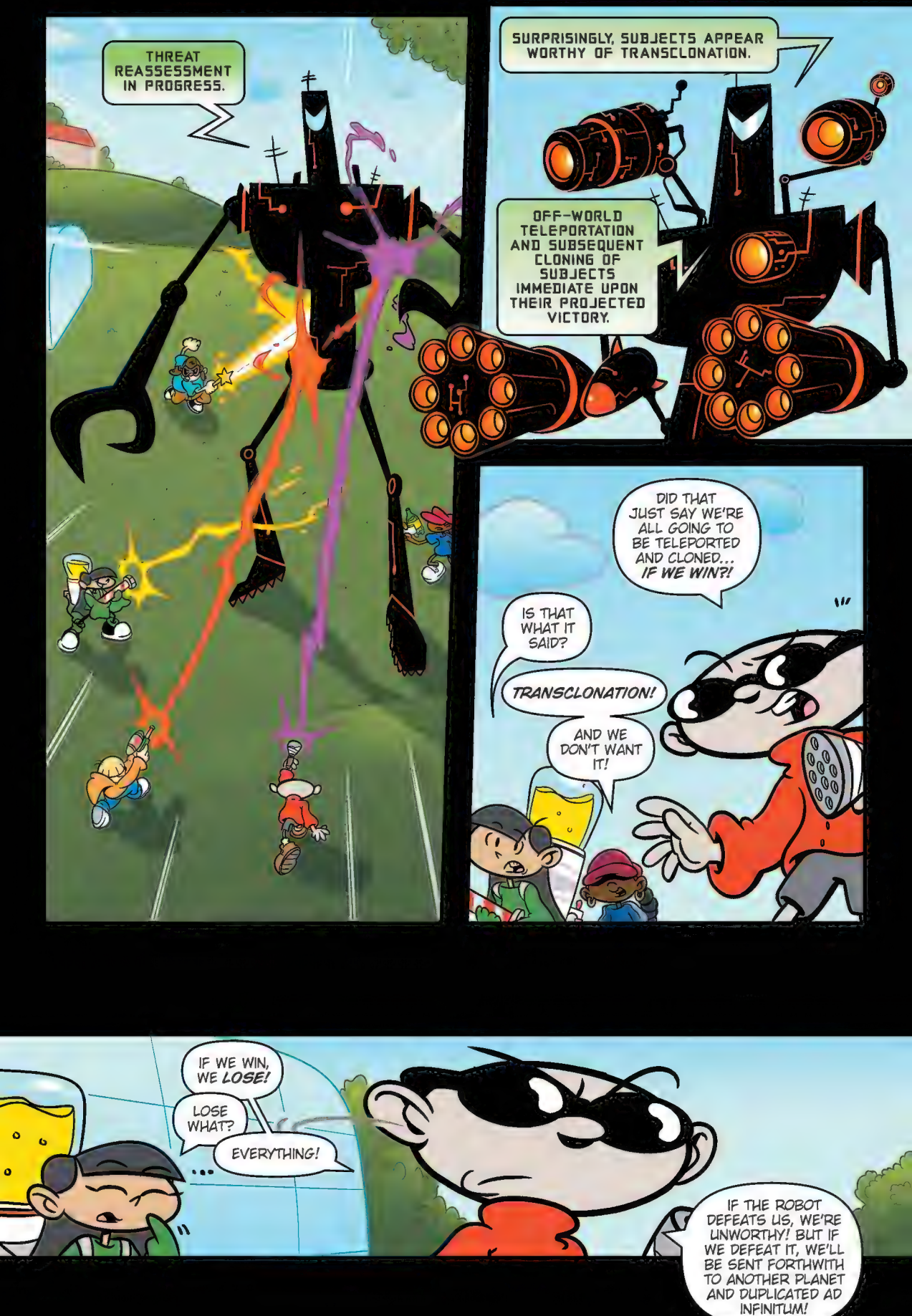
NUMBUH THREE-A.K.A. KUKI SANBAN-RAINBOW MONKEY ENTHUSIAST. ASPARAGUS, NOT SO MUCH...
WHATCHA DOIN'?
WHAT'S IT LOOK LIKE?
I'M CHANGING THE WORLD. FOREVER.
WITH... ASPARAGUS?
NUMBUH TWO-A.K.A. HOGARTH "HOAGIE" P. GILLIGAN, JR.—INVENTOR, PILOT, ICE CREAM ENTHUSIAST...
NUMBUH FOUR-A.K.A. WALLABEE "WALLY" BEATLES—IMPULSIVE, GOOD IN A SCRAP, HAIRY...
COULDN'T WE CHANGE THE WORLD WITH ICE CREAM?
AND WHAT ABOUT PROJECT: C.A.R.R.O.T.?
WE DON'T TALK ABOUT PROJECT: C.A.R.R.O.T.
LOOK. YOU KNOW HOW AFTER YOUR PARENTS FORCE YOU TO EAT ASPARAGUS, YOUR... UH...
PEE KINDA STINKS?
PRECISELY. WELL, NO MORE!
HOW IS MAKING ASPARAGUS PEE NOT STINK GONNA HELP?
NUMBUH FIVE-A.K.A. ABIGAIL "ABBY" LINCOLN—INTELLIGENT AND PATIENT BUT DEADLY, ESPECIALLY IF YOU STAND BETWEEN HER AND CANDY...
I'M NOT MAKING IT SO IT DOESN'T STINK ANY MORE. I'M MAKING IT SMELL ***TEN TIMES WORSE!***
ONE WHIFF OF THE BATHROOM AND NO PARENT WILL EVER INFLICT THIS VILE WEED UPON ANY CHILD AGAIN.
BEHOLD ***OPERATION: A.S.P.A.R.A.G.U.S.*** (A STINKY PLAN AND RADICAL ASSAULT GASTRONOMICAL UNTO SENSES)
COOL STORY, BRAH. BUT WHAT'S *THAT*?


KND
THAT WOULD APPEAR TO BE A GIANT EVIL ROBOT OF SOME SORT.
WHY EVIL?
I DON'T KNOW. DOESN'T IT LOOK EVIL?
IT'S PROBABLY FROM THE DELIGHTFUL CHILDREN FROM DOWN THE LANE.
ONE WAY TO FIND OUT.
SEEMS LIKE STEREOTYPING. FOR ALL YOU KNOW, IT'S FROM THE KIDS NEXT DOOR ORGANIZATION.
THERE'S NO WAY THAT'S FROM THE KND ORGANIZATION.
HOW DO YOU KNOW?


HEY. YOU COME IN PEACE OR FOR A LITTLE ROCK'EM SOCK'EM, EH?
OBJECTIVE IS TO FIND WORTHY OPPONENTS.
IF SUCH A CHALLENGER IS LOCATED, THEN THIS UNIT WILL PICK A FIGHT TO DETERMINE OPPONENTS' WORTHINESS FOR TRANSCLONATION.
SUBJECT DOES NOT APPEAR TO MEET CRITERIA.
WELL, THAT'S HURTFUL.
AND THEY SAY *I* MAKE SNAP JUDGMENTS.
I MEAN, HOW DO YOU KNOW I'M NOT A LOT TOUGHER THAN I LOOK?
I'M TOTALLY WORTHY OF... *WHATCHALLIT*... TRANS—
CHALLENGER MAKES VALID POINT. OR AT LEAST ATTEMPTS TO.
BEGIN CHALLENGE.

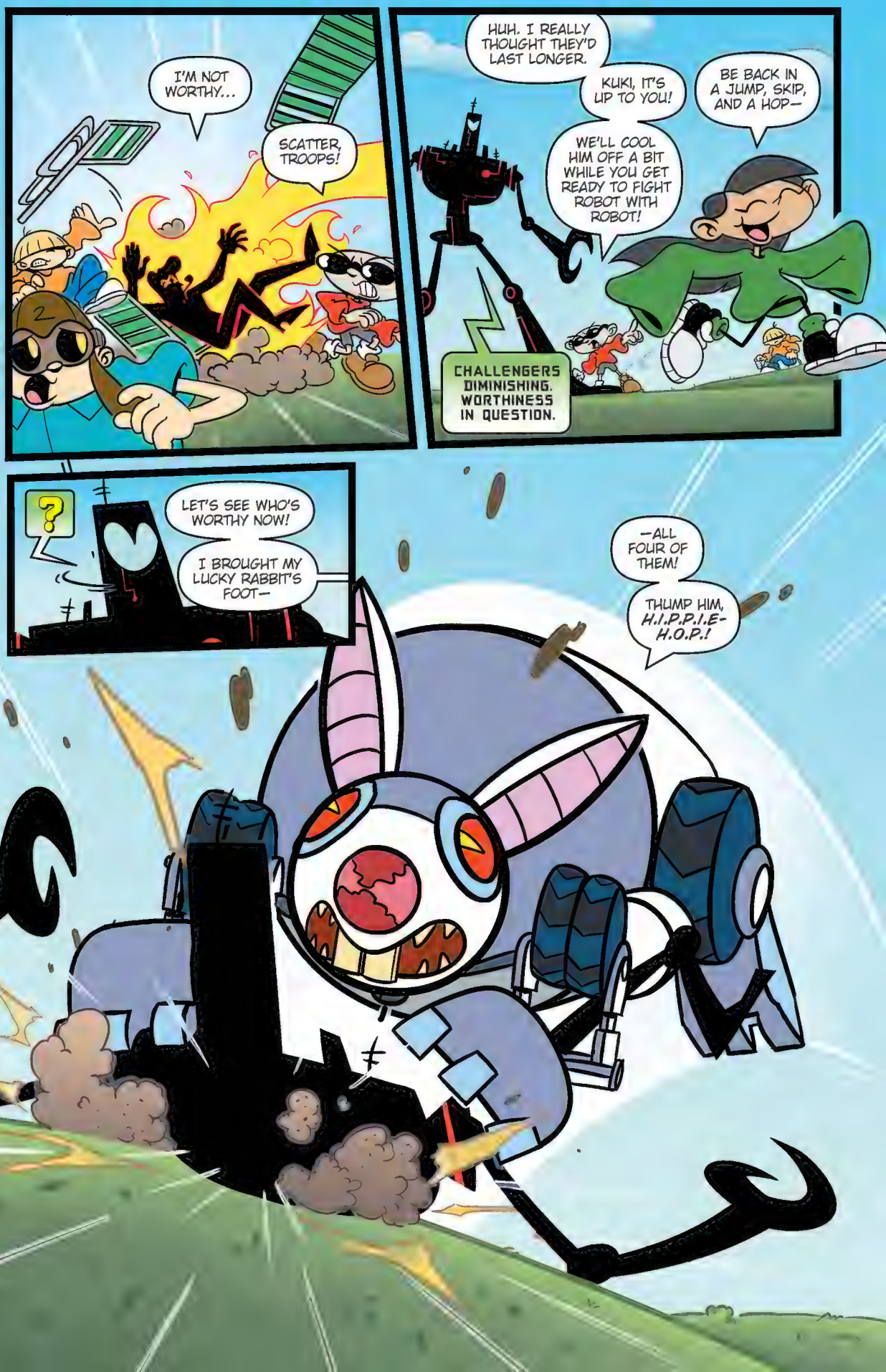
WALLY!
NOT THE GREENHOUSE!
OKAY. I DON'T THINK THAT'S FROM THE KND ORG.
YA THINK?
RIGHT. SPARE THE ASPARAGUS IF YOU PLEASE.
LET'S SHOW THIS ARROGANT ALUMINUM ASSASSIN HOW WE DO THINGS DOWN HERE ON EARTH.

UH...
WHAT? IT WAS ALL THAT WAS LEFT.
I'LL TRADE WITH YOU, IF YOU WISH.
THAT'S OKAY. I KINDA LIKE IT.
IT SPARKLES.
OKAY. WE'RE GOING TO HIT THIS THING WITH ALL WE'VE GOT. WE'LL THROW SO MUCH VISUAL AND AUDITORY STIMULATION AT IT, IT WON'T BE ABLE TO FOCUS ON US.
DIDN'T I SEE THAT IN A MOVIE? THE TERMIN—
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHERE IT'S FROM. THE POINT IS, IT'S A GOOD IDEA.
LET'S DO IT.


THREAT REASSESSMENT IN PROGRESS.
SURPRISINGLY, SUBJECTS APPEAR WORTHY OF TRANSCLONATION.
OFF-WORLD TELEPORTATION AND SUBSEQUENT CLONING OF SUBJECTS IMMEDIATE UPON THEIR PROJECTED VICTORY.
DID THAT JUST SAY WE'RE ALL GOING TO BE TELEPORTED AND CLONED... IF WE WIN?!
IS THAT WHAT IT SAID?
TRANSCLONATION!
AND WE DON'T WANT IT!
IF WE WIN, WE LOSE!
LOSE WHAT?
EVERYTHING!
...
IF THE ROBOT DEFEATS US, WE'RE UNWORTHY! BUT IF WE DEFEAT IT, WE'LL BE SENT FORTHWITH TO ANOTHER PLANET AND DUPLICATED AD INFINITUM!

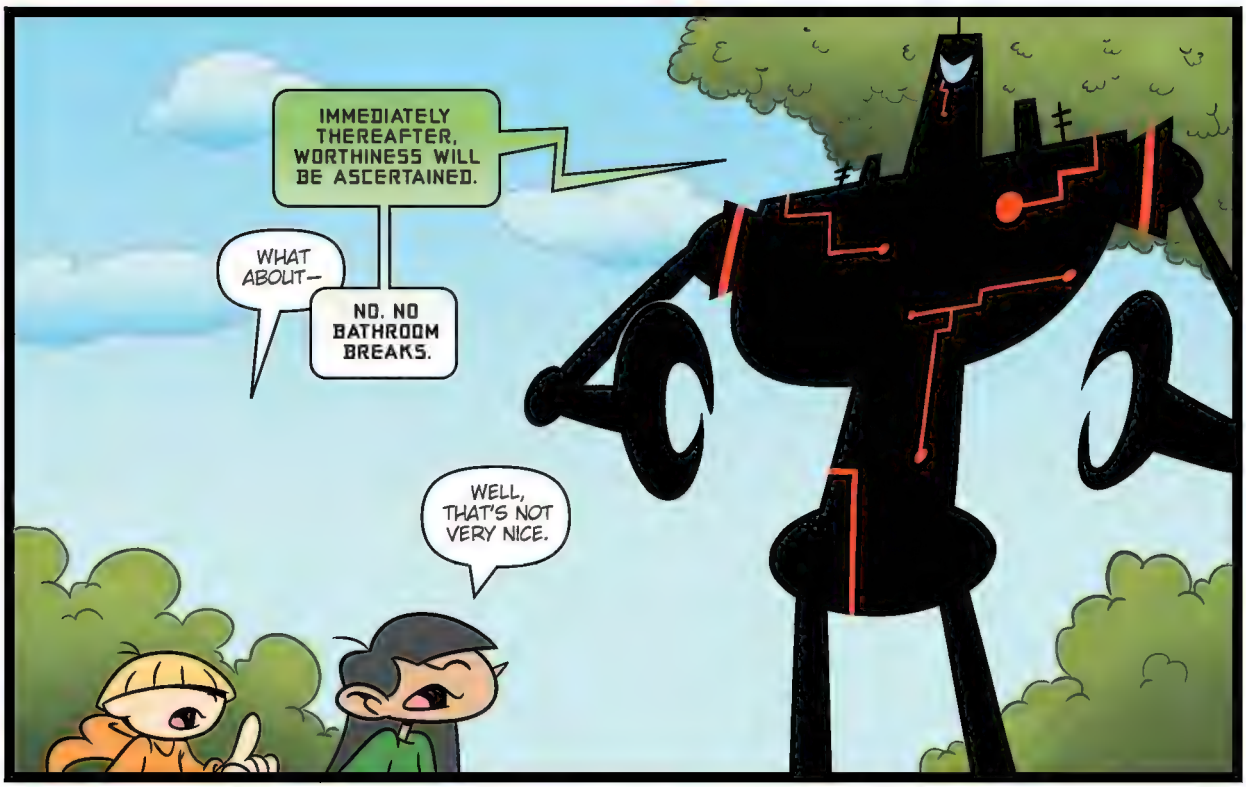
SO ARE WE WORTHY OR UNWORTHY? I'M SO CONFUSED!
IF WE DON'T FIGHT—
OH, YOU'LL FIGHT, YOU NAUGHTY, NAUGHTY KIDS!
DID I MENTION HOW NAUGHTY YOU ARE?
YOU TELL THEM, FATHER!
I COULD SMELL YOUR STINKY PLOT ALL THE WAY NEXT DOOR, KIDS NEXT DOOR!
SO YOU CAME FOR THE ASPARAGUS, DID YOU?
WELL, I WON'T GIVE IT UP WITHOUT A FIGHT!
THAT'S IT, NIGEL!
BUT WE WON'T HAVE TO DO THE FIGHTING!
HEY, ROBOT BUDDY!
IS THERE ANY LIMIT TO THE NUMBUH OF CHALLENGERS?
ROBOT Q-36'S OBJECTIVE IS TO FIND WORTHY OPPONENTS FOR TRANSCLONATION.
WELL, THESE NEW GUYS ARE TOTALLY WORTHY!

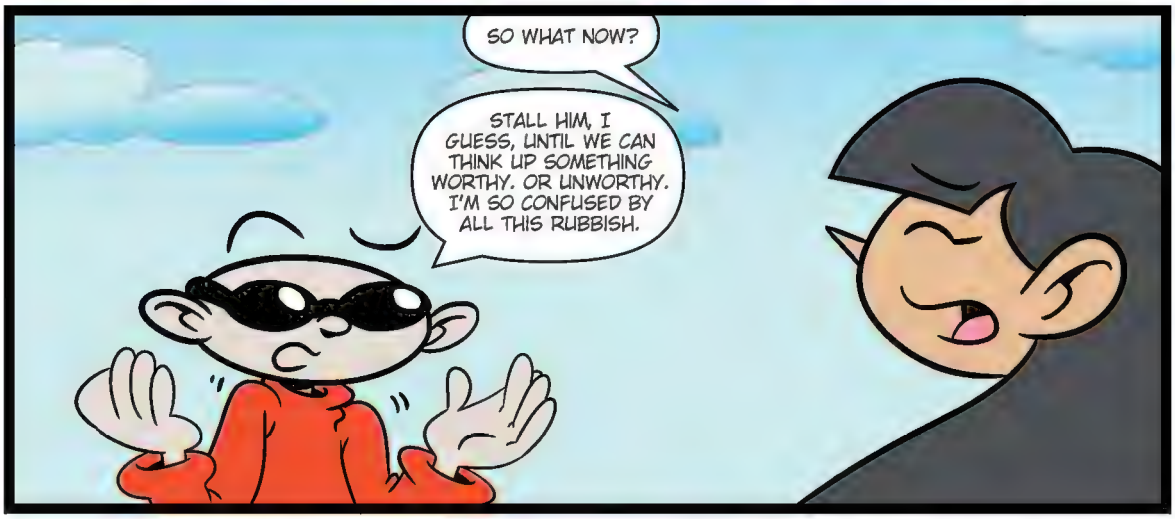
CONTINUE CHALLENGE.
WELL, THAT'S THAT.
EASIEST VICTORY EVER, I MUST SAY.
CAN WE HAVE A SNACK?
OOO? HOW ABOUT ICE CREAM?
NAUGHTY! NAUGHTY!
SO HOW DO YOU THINK THIS WILL END?
WHO CARES! MORE ICE CREAM!
AIEEE!
DO WATCH WHERE YOU'RE SCOOPING, NUMBUH THREE!
SORRY!

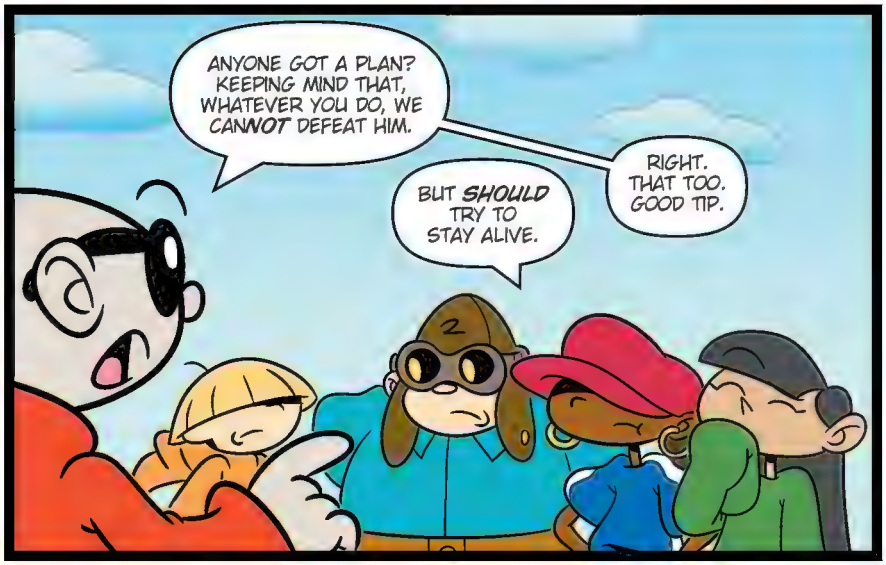

I'M NOT WORTHY...
SCATTER, TROOPS!
HUH. I REALLY THOUGHT THEY'D LAST LONGER.
KUKI, IT'S UP TO YOU!
BE BACK IN A JUMP, SKIP, AND A HOP—
WE'LL COOL HIM OFF A BIT WHILE YOU GET READY TO FIGHT ROBOT WITH ROBOT!
CHALLENGERS DIMINISHING. WORTHINESS IN QUESTION.
LET'S SEE WHO'S WORTHY NOW!
I BROUGHT MY LUCKY RABBIT'S FOOT—
—ALL FOUR OF THEM!
THUMP HIM, H.I.P.P.I.E-H.O.P.!

A TOAST TO THE KIDS NEXT DOOR!
VICTORY IS OURS, AGAIN! WE ARE TOTALLY AND UTTERLY WOR—
OH WAIT.
OH. NO.
SO YOUNG. SO FULL OF HORRIFIC PEE-STINKIFYING POTENTIAL...
OH NO.
EVERYBODY DOWN!
IS ANYBODY HIT?

HOAGIE! BUT YOU SAID YOU WERE ALLERGIC!
I... I LIED.
I JUST DON'T LIKE IT.
DOES ANYONE?
OH, COME ON!
I JUST HAD THE COURAGE TO ADMIT—
SECONDARY CHALLENGERS FLEE IN TERROR.
VERDICT: NOT SUITABLE OPPONENTS.
PRIMARY CHALLENGERS REMAIN SUITABLE OPPONENTS.
CHALLENGE CONTINUES...
I SAY, WOULD THAT WORK FOR US AS WELL? CAN WE JUST REFUSE TO COMPETE? OPT OUT OF THE CHALLENGE, IF YOU WILL?
NO CHALLENGER REFUSES THE CHALLENGE.
WELL THEN, WHAT ABOUT A DIFFERENT CHALLENGE? PERHAPS A NICE, NON-LETHAL GAME OF TIC-TAC-TOE?
REQUEST DENIED; WE HAVE SEEN THAT FILM. THOUGH ROBOT Q-36 WILL WAIT THREE MINUTES FOR CHALLENGERS TO DIGEST THEIR ICE CREAM.


IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER, WORTHINESS WILL BE ASCERTAINED.
WHAT ABOUT—
NO. NO BATHROOM BREAKS.
WELL, THAT'S NOT VERY NICE.


SO WHAT NOW?
STALL HIM, I GUESS, UNTIL WE CAN THINK UP SOMETHING WORTHY. OR UNWORTHY. I'M SO CONFUSED BY ALL THIS RUBBISH.


ANYONE GOT A PLAN? KEEPING MIND THAT, WHATEVER YOU DO, WE CAN*NOT* DEFEAT HIM.
RIGHT. THAT TOO. GOOD TIP.
BUT *SHOULD* TRY TO STAY ALIVE.

WHAT IF WE DID SOMETHING LIKE...
OR MAYBE WE COULD...
IT'D BE REALLY COOL IF WE...
NAH. THE WAY WE SHOULD PLAY IT IS...

KINDA FORGOT ABOUT THE GIANT EVIL ROBOT WE'RE ACTUALLY FIGHTING...
WHOA!
I AM NOT FINDING THIS VERY ENJOYABLE.
CHALLENGERS CHALLENGE.
YOU MUST DESTROY ROBOT Q-36 OR IT WILL DESTROY YOU.
RESISTANCE IS ENCOURAGED.
THAT SEEMS A LITTLE EXCESSIVE, DON'T YOU THINK? I MEAN, WE'RE JUST KIDS, FOR PETE'S SAKE.
OH! HEY! THAT'S RIGHT! WE ARE!

GUYS! I KNOW WHAT TO DO!
THANK GOODNESS! SOMEONE FINALLY HAS A PLAN!
YEAH. WE JUST NEED TO BEAT HIM.
THAT. IS. NOT. A. PLAN.
WE'VE BEEN OVER THIS, REMEMBER? IF WE BEAT HIM, WE'RE GETTING TELEPORTED TO SOME ALIEN MMA COMPETITION. AND WE DON'T WANT THAT.
NO, I'M PRETTY SURE THIS IS GOING TO WORK. AND HOW HARD CAN BEATING HIM BE? I MEAN, IT'S NOT LIKE THIS ROBOT'S A ROCKET SCIENTIST, RIGHT?
ROBOT Q-36 LEARNED EVERYTHING YOU CONSIDER ROCKET SCIENCE SEVENTEEN SECONDS AFTER BECOMING SELF-AWARE. AND JUST BEFORE FIRST OIL CHANGE.
OH. REALLY? WELL...
...
LOOK, JUST TRUST ME, 'KAY? I'M SURE THIS IS GOING TO WORK.
PRETTY SURE.
I THINK.

FINE.
UH... GUYS?

WELL, THAT WAS INTERESTING.
CAN SOMEONE TELL ME WHAT JUST HAPPENED?
I REALIZED THAT WE'RE NOT EVEN ALLOWED TO GO ON A SCHOOL FIELD TRIP TO A MUSEUM WITHOUT A PERMISSION SLIP, A DOCTOR'S NOTE, OUR MEDICATIONS...
THERE'S NO WAY WE'RE GONNA BE ALLOWED TO JUST GET ZAPPED OFF-PLANET.
PARENTAL CONSENT IS AIRTIGHT.
WELL, PROJECT: A.S.P.A.R.A.G.U.S IS RUINED. I SUPPOSE IT'S BACK TO WORKING PROJECT: C.A.R.R.O.T.
EVEN AFTER WHAT HAPPENED TO NUMBAH SIX ONE NINE?
OH, POOR SIX ONE NINE.
I'M SURE THE PROJECT: C.A.R.R.O.T. EFFECTS ARE ONLY TEMPORARY. THEY'LL PROBABLY WEAR OFF. ANY WEEK NOW.
PROBABLY. HOPE SPRINGS ETERNAL.
KND
END TRANSMISSION

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